

Distribution Information

AAE members may reprint this position statement for distribution to patients or referring dentists.

About This Document

The following statement was prepared by the AAE Special Committee on the Scope of Endodontics to address issues being raised by some endodontic patients.

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The guidance in this statement is not intended to substitute for a clinician's independent judgment in light of the conditions and needs of a specific patient.

Scope of Endodontics: Extraction of Teeth

AAE Position Statement

Extraction of teeth is within the scope of endodontics. According to the ADA Definition of the Specialty of Endodontics, *"its study and practice encompass the basic clinical sciences including biology of the normal pulp; the etiology, diagnosis, prevention and treatment of diseases and injuries of the pulp, and associated periradicular conditions."*

The goal of endodontic treatment is to save the natural tooth. However, in the course of treatment planning, an endodontist may determine that the tooth cannot be saved with endodontic treatment. The endodontist may proceed with the extraction if it is in the best interest of the patient. These clinical scenarios include, but are not limited to:

- Tooth determined to be non-restorable during non-surgical or surgical endodontic therapy, for reasons including, but not limited to:
 - Extensive destruction of natural tooth structure
 - Periodontal considerations
 - Unfavorable crown/root ratio
 - Resorption
 - Iatrogenic issues
 - Periapical considerations
 - Root fractures
 - Considerations of adjacent teeth
- Unfavorable clinic outcomes following trauma
- Resective surgical treatment demonstrating that one or more roots need to be extracted due to the disease process.
- Autotransplantation/intentional replantation

Dental students receive training in tooth extraction while in dental school. Endodontic graduate students receive additional training in extraction. Standard 4.9 of the Commission on Dental Accreditation's Accreditation Standards for Advanced Specialty Education Programs in Endodontics requires that programs provide in-depth instruction and clinical training to achieve proficiency in non-surgical endodontic treatment and retreatment, including extraction. According to the CODA standards, the intent of this instruction to ensure that endodontists "are trained to provide comprehensive treatment, which may include the removal of teeth as part of an endodontic treatment plan, e.g. extractions/replantations or extractions of teeth with vertical root fractures or other pathosis for which extraction is the preferred treatment."

References

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