

REFERRAL GUIDELINES

APICAL SURGERY

Prior to referral for apical surgery complete orthograde obturation of the root canal system must have taken place. Since there is good evidence to suggest that endodontic re-treatment has higher success rates than apical surgery patients will be advised to pursue a non-operative route if obturation is radiographically incomplete or short of the root apex.

In order to prevent recontamination and failure of apical surgery all patients should also have a satisfactory coronal seal.

The success rate of apical surgery on molar teeth is low and will not be routinely undertaken. Repeat apicectomy has a low success rate and will also not be routinely undertaken.

Referral may be appropriate in cases of peri-radicular disease in root filled teeth while orthograde endodontic therapy cannot be re-performed or has failed. Likewise patients may be offered surgery in cases of suspected root perforation, root fracture or where biopsy of peri-radicular tissue is required (eg cystic change suspected).

Please ensure that relevant radiographs accompany all requests so that we can help to avoid unnecessary radiation exposure to patients. These radiographs will be returned once treatment has been completed.

More comprehensive guidelines for referral for apicectomy are available at www.rcseng.ac.uk/dental/fds/clinical_guidelines.