

Distribution Information

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

Tooth Saving Tips

AAE Fact Sheet

Endodontists are dentists who specialize in saving teeth and have at least two years of advanced training in root canal procedures. They are experts at diagnosing and relieving tooth pain and use advanced equipment to treat patients quickly and comfortably. Your natural teeth offer numerous advantages over replacement options, and we want to highlight why saving your teeth should be a priority. Understanding your choices and their impact on your future dental health and lifestyle is important. In this document, we have compiled some valuable tooth-saving tips that can assist you in maintaining optimal oral health.

About This Document

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.

Your Natural Teeth are Irreplaceable

There is no perfect substitute for your natural teeth. Unlike artificial replacements, your natural teeth are designed to function harmoniously with your surrounding tissues. They provide superior chewing ability, speech clarity, and help maintain the structure of your face. By saving your teeth, you preserve these unique advantages.

Cost-Effectiveness

Saving your natural teeth is often more cost-effective than undergoing tooth extraction and subsequent replacement with dental implants, bridges, or dentures. Dental treatments to save your teeth, such as root canal therapy, are generally more affordable and can help you avoid the long-term expenses associated with tooth replacement options.

Maintaining Jawbone Health

Your teeth play a vital role in preserving the health of your jawbone. When a tooth is lost or extracted, the underlying jawbone can deteriorate over time due to lack of stimulation. Preserving your natural teeth helps maintain the integrity and strength of your jawbone, ensuring a stable foundation for your remaining teeth.

Proper Oral Function

Each tooth plays a specific role in the complex process of biting, chewing, and speaking. Losing even a single tooth can disrupt this balance, making it more challenging to eat certain foods and articulate certain sounds. By preserving your natural teeth, you ensure that you can continue to enjoy the full range of oral functions comfortably.

Preservation of Adjacent Teeth

When a tooth is lost, the adjacent teeth can shift or tilt into the empty space, causing misalignment and bite problems. Saving your natural teeth helps maintain the proper alignment of neighboring teeth, preventing issues like overcrowding, malocclusion, and potential jaw joint problems.

Aesthetics and Self-Confidence

Your natural teeth contribute significantly to your appearance and self-confidence. Losing a tooth can impact your smile aesthetics, facial symmetry, and may lead to feelings of self-consciousness. By saving your teeth, you can maintain a beautiful smile that enhances your overall appearance and boosts your self-esteem.

Psychological Benefits

Maintaining your natural teeth has psychological benefits beyond the physical aspects. Your teeth are an essential part of your identity and play a significant role in communication and social interactions. By saving your teeth, you can preserve your sense of self and enjoy positive interactions with others without worrying about tooth loss.

There is a common misconception that root canal treatment is a painful and unpleasant procedure. Root canal treatment is designed to alleviate pain and save your natural tooth. Modern advancements in endodontic techniques and anesthesia have made root canal treatment virtually painless.

Local Anesthesia

Before beginning the root canal procedure, your endodontist will administer local anesthesia to numb the area around the affected tooth. This ensures that you do not experience any pain during the treatment. The use of modern anesthesia techniques has significantly improved patient comfort and minimizes any potential discomfort.

Advanced Technology

Endodontists employ advanced technology and tools to perform root canal treatment with precision and efficiency. This includes the use of microscopes, digital imaging, and specialized instruments, which allow for enhanced visualization and accurate treatment of the affected tooth. These advancements contribute to a more comfortable and pain-free experience.

Skill and Expertise

Endodontists are highly skilled dental specialists who receive specialized training in performing root canal treatment. Their expertise and knowledge of the latest techniques ensure that the procedure is carried out with precision and minimal discomfort. They prioritize your comfort and take steps to ensure your pain is effectively managed throughout the process.

Post-Treatment Care

Following root canal treatment, your endodontist will provide you with detailed post-treatment care instructions. Over-the-counter pain medications can be used as directed to manage any mild discomfort that may occur after the procedure.

Time Commitment

Endodontic treatment generally requires one to two visits lasting approximately an hour or less. An extraction requires one visit, but the denture, bridge or implant will require several additional visits with your dentist.

For more personalized advice and guidance, consult with your endodontist. They possess the specialized knowledge and expertise to provide individualized treatment options and address any concerns you may have. To locate a root canal specialist near you, visit the American Association of Endodontists website at aae.org

The American Association of Endodontists is dedicated to the highest standard of patient care. For more information about saving your teeth or endodontic treatment, contact us!

American Association of Endodontists

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