

# Kansas City Star

**Kansas City, Mo.**

**May 12, 2006**

## **Necessary dental work**

I was appalled when I noticed "Root canal, anyone?" on the front page of The Star referring readers to a pain study on a subsequent page (5/5, A-5, "For some, dread worse than pain). The implication, of course, is that endodontic therapy, or "root canal," is associated with pain. Nothing could be further from the truth.

I am a board-certified member of the American Association of Endodontists, the American Dental Association specialty group composed of skilled clinicians who provide comfortable and competent cures for patients requiring this treatment. I think your use of that phrase may play a role in scaring away patients who need this care.

This avoidance of treatment is unwise. It can, in some cases, put patients' lives at risk.

I know your use of the phrase was meant to be "funny," but something that potentially results in patients avoiding necessary treatment can surely not be "funny."

James C. Kulild  
Professor and director,  
post-graduate endodontics  
University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry  
Shawnee