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

About This Document

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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
 - Periadicular considerations
 - Root fractures
 - Considerations of adjacent teeth
- Unfavorable clinic outcomes following trauma, not amenable to additional endodontic therapy
- 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 extraction site preparation such as grafting for implant placement. They also receive training on intentional replantation which is where the tooth is extracted, apical surgical preparation is done, and the tooth is reimplemented in the socket. Endodontic graduate students receive additional training in extraction. An appropriately trained endodontist has the license to perform extractions. According to the CODA standard^{4,8}, Instruction and training in surgical endodontic treatment and retreatment is to ensure that students/residents are trained to provide comprehensive treatment which may include hard and soft tissue management in the surgical site and the removal of teeth as part of an endodontic treatment plan.¹.

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