

Re: My left tooth... again

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.med.dentistry/2007-11/msg00025.html>

- *From:* Steven Bornfeld <dentaltwinmung@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 01 Nov 2007 22:34:58 -0400
-

John wrote:

On Nov 1, 11:12 am, Mark & Steven Bornfeld
<bornfeldm...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

John wrote:

Some things I wanted to try to better understand further
before I opt
to get the tooth pulled:
– How can a successfully RCT-ed tooth still cause pain? I've
been
told if it has a crack in it, but what is the mechanism? The
only
living thing the crack could be touching is the periodontal
ligament.
Can that really cause significant pain?

Yes.

Can you elaborate a little? Are we talking pinching? Bacteria
getting in the crack and irritating the periodontal ligament?
Something else?

If the crack extends to the periodontal membrane a periodontal abscess will almost certainly result. The degree of pain is variable, depending upon how acute the abscess is and whether drainage is occurring.

– Can gutta percha overfill that is visible on an x-ray and
seems to
be coming out of the tooth root apex be the cause of pain? I
would
think so, especially if it is impinging on the nerve in the jaw.
Is
that actually a possibility?
See <http://geocities.com/dtminer40/tooth.jpg>

Re: My left tooth... again

for the xray, which I've linked to before on a file sharing site,
but
this one is easier to get to.

That doesn't look like a gutta percha overfill, it looks like a puff of sealer there. Either way, these rarely if ever cause pain. The sealer is gradually resorbed by the body (gutta percha won't be).

A related question: how close is the nerve in the jaw to the tooth apex usually? Any way to see the nerve via some contrast imaging method?

Not close enough for the overfill of the canal to be a factor.

I remember this x-ray. The most likely causes of pain are fracture or a missed canal, leaning toward fracture. However, I cannot see it. If the tooth is re-x-rayed, there may be more evidence if there is a fracture.

I've been told by an oral surgeon that because of the orientation of the tooth, it would be difficult if not impossible to locate the crack. Does this make any sense? What method could he have been talking about? (Yeah, I know, why didn't I just ask him? Well, I was taken aback by his condescending attitude and curt responses, so I got derailed...)

John.

It's usually difficult to directly see a fracture on x-ray unless it separates or is directly perpendicular to the plane of the film. If it's separating you usually can be pretty certain of fracture based solely on mobility of the tooth. Also, an area of bone destruction on x-ray at the side of the root is often suggestive of fracture. But the statement of the oral surgeon as you put it is pretty meaningless—he's probably not a great communicator.

Steve