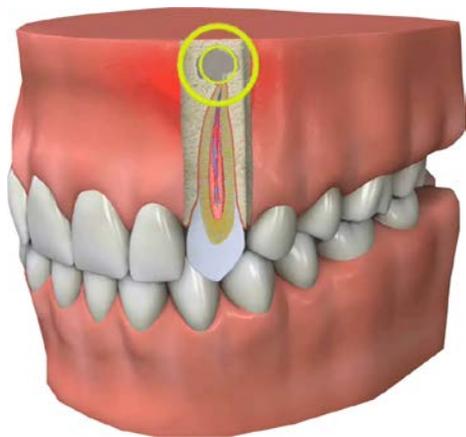


# PERIAPICAL ABSCESS



**Q** What is a periapical abscess?

**A** A periapical abscess is an infection around the end (or apex) of a tooth root.

**Q** Why does a periapical abscess form?

**A** This abscess forms when the nerve (or pulp) of the tooth dies.

**Q** Can it be treated?

**A** This type of abscess is treated using a process known as root canal treatment.

**Q** What does it involve?

**A** The aim of the treatment is to remove infection from the nerve canals inside the root of the tooth. The canals are then sealed to prevent re infection.

**Q** What will my tooth look like after treatment?

**A** The tooth may darken a little over time.

**Q** What if it happens again?

**A** This is unlikely but root canal treatment can be carried out again.

**Q** Is it expensive?

**A** Root canal treatment is a time consuming procedure, especially on the bigger back teeth called molars, which have a larger multi root system. You will need to discuss the cost with your dentist.

**Q** What if I don't have the treatment?

**A** Sooner or later without treatment the tooth will probably have to be extracted.

**Q** Where can this treatment be carried out?

**A** Your family dentist will normally provide this treatment. Occasionally a specialist called an Endodontist will carry out the treatment.

**Q** What about aftercare?

**A** It is usually recommended that root filled BACK teeth are crowned to prevent the tooth from splitting. This will add to the cost of saving the tooth.

