



Tooth Resorption

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What is tooth resorption?

A condition associated with either a physiologic or a pathologic process resulting in the loss of dentin, cementum or bone.

What are the causative factors?

The causes of tooth resorption can vary.

It can be seen in the following scenarios mostly

Pulp related caries, traumatic luxation injuries, deep restorative fillings, chronic inflammation of the pulp.

Some iatrogenic causes of tooth resorption can be, excessive heat over the pulp or during tooth preparation for a crown.

Tooth resorption can be broadly classifying into 2 groups

Internal resorption and external resorption

Internal resorption

Internal resorption is an unusual form of tooth resorption that begins centrally within the tooth, apparently initiated in most cases by a peculiar inflammation of the pulp.

In this type of resorption, a peculiar "ballooning" of the root canal takes places and the outline of the canal gets distorted.

It does not involve the bone, so radiolucency is confined to the root.

Most of the cases of internal root resorption can be managed with endodontic therapy, if perforation is absent.

If perforation is present, a surgical approach with root resection and intentional replantation can be considered.

External resorption

It is initiated in the periodontium and it affects external or lateral surface of root.

Affects cementum or dentin of the tooth.

Typical features of an external root resorption are:

1. Ragged area or scooped out area on side of root
2. Root canal outline is normal
3. Root canal can be seen running through the defect
4. Bone resorption will be present so, radiolucency can be seen in both the root and the bone

As treatment objectives, if the external root resorption is a surface resorption or a replacement resorption, then, no clinical treatment is available.

In cases of external inflammatory root resorption, treatment is based on removal of source of infection. Appropriate periodontal intervention along with rct might be required.

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