



FURTHER GUIDANCE

Endodontic care and endodontic microsurgery

25 June 2020

Dear Colleagues

As we make progress in the transition towards resuming dental care for our patients, additional queries have been received regarding the provision of endodontic treatment as we come out of lockdown. We'd therefore like to provide clarity on the following issues:

1. Continuation of endodontic care

- Initial priority should be given to patients currently in pain and those who experienced symptoms during lockdown requiring management either by AAA or at a UDC¹.
- Patients who have had the initial stages of root canal treatment undertaken prior to lockdown, or had emergency treatment during lockdown, should also be prioritised after an appropriate risk assessment.

The rationale for this is to reduce the risk of tooth loss due to fracture or the development of recurrent caries. In addition, acute inter-appointment flare-ups have been demonstrated to have a negative effect on the overall endodontic outcome².

2. Provision of endodontic microsurgery

- Wherever possible, this procedure should be deferred until the COVID-19 alert levels reduce to below the current level of '3'³.
- However, where acute infection persists despite non-surgical management, a surgical approach can be considered at the clinician's discretion following an appropriate risk assessment.

The above recommendations can be applied in conjunction with the BES COVID-19 Return to Work SOP⁴. In clarifying these clinical scenarios, we trust you will apply professional judgement based on each clinical case and with due diligence in respect of current COVID-19 risk levels in order to protect your patients, staff and yourself.

With best regards on behalf of the BES

Handwritten signature of Dr Dipti Mehta in black ink.

Dr Dipti Mehta
Assistant Hon Secretary

Handwritten signature of Dr Sanjeev Bhanderi in black ink.

Dr Sanjeev Bhanderi
President

References

1. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/06/C0575-dental-transition-to-recovery-SOP-4June.pdf>
2. Ng Y-L, Mann V, Gulabivala K (2011) A prospective study of the factors affecting the outcomes of nonsurgical root canal treatment: part 1: periapical health. *International Endodontic Journal* 44 583-609
3. Recommendations for Restorative Dentistry during the recovery phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. Royal College of Surgeons Faculty of Dental Surgery. <https://www.rcseng.ac.uk/dental-faculties/fds/coronavirus/#guidance>
4. <https://britishendodonticsociety.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/BES-Covid-19-Return-to-Work-SOP-v-1.1.pdf>