

Tooth Extraction During the Course of Periodontal Therapy*

BACKGROUND

The goal of periodontal therapy is to save existing teeth or replace missing teeth.¹ Upon patient evaluation and during the course of treatment, hopeless teeth and other teeth requiring extraction may be identified. Often, hopeless teeth can be identified only during the course of a periodontal surgical procedure. Extractions should be performed at the appropriate phase of periodontal treatment to facilitate the coordinated treatment plan. Patient care is enhanced by providing the advantages and convenience of coordinated treatment to the patient, dentist, and periodontist.

Extractions may be performed during the diagnostic, non-surgical, or surgical phase of care to eliminate pain, infection, or periodontal defects and/or to facilitate restorative treatment. During the surgical phase of treatment, periodontal defects may be corrected by extracting adjacent teeth.¹ Teeth may also be extracted for the purpose of placing dental implants. Implant site development or implant placement should be accomplished at the appropriate time following tooth extraction.²

The use of judicious extraction techniques for ridge preservation is necessary to preserve bone for prosthetic appliances and/or future implant placement. During maintenance therapy, teeth that have lost periodontal attachment and bone may require extraction.^{3,4} The exposure of teeth for orthodontic eruption may require extraction of adjacent teeth that could interfere with their eruption.¹ Other reasons to extract teeth include, but are not limited to, treatment of acute periodontal lesions and occlusal trauma.^{5,6}

Periodontists are trained to extract teeth, and the *Accreditation Standards for Advanced Specialty Education Programs in Periodontics* require teaching tooth extraction to the level of proficiency.⁷ Tooth extraction, during the course of periodontal therapy, and in preparation for the placement of dental implants, is a necessary and integral part of periodontal practice and provides treatment advantages to the patient, dentist, and periodontist.

POLICY STATEMENT

Tooth extraction during the course of periodontal therapy is within the scope of periodontal practice.

REFERENCES

1. American Academy of Periodontology. Guidelines for periodontal therapy (position paper). *J Periodontol* 2001; 72:1624-1628.
2. American Academy of Periodontology. Parameter on placement and management of the dental implant. *J Periodontol* 2000;71:870-872.
3. American Academy of Periodontology. Parameter on chronic periodontitis with advanced loss of periodontal support. *J Periodontol* 2000;71:856-858.
4. American Academy of Periodontology. Parameter on "refractory" periodontitis. *J Periodontol* 2000;71:859-860.
5. American Academy of Periodontology. Parameter on acute periodontal diseases. *J Periodontol* 2000;71:863-866.
6. American Academy of Periodontology. Parameter on occlusal traumatism in patients with chronic periodontitis. *J Periodontol* 2000;71:873-875.
7. Commission on Dental Accreditation. *Accreditation Standards for Advanced Specialty Education Programs in Periodontics*. Chicago: American Dental Association; 2002:18.

* This statement was developed under the direction of the Task Force on State and Regional Periodontal Matters and was approved by the Board of Trustees of the American Academy of Periodontology in May 2003.