



# Peri-apical cyst

**This leaflet has been designed to improve your understanding of your problem and explain any treatment, if necessary. If you have any other questions that the leaflet does not answer or would like further explanation, please ask.**

## What is a peri-apical cyst?

A peri-apical cyst, also known as a 'radicular' cyst is the most common tooth derived cyst. A cyst is a fluid (blood/gel/pus) filled or a gas filled cavity inside the bone or soft tissues.

## What are the signs and symptoms?

Whilst small, the cyst is often not noticed. However, if the cyst becomes larger it can loosen or move the teeth. Cysts can become infected and cause symptoms such as pain and swelling.

## What are the causes of peri-apical cysts?

Peri-apical cysts are a result of a tooth becoming infected due to decay and the tooth not receiving any treatment. Cysts are most often discovered as incidental findings on x-rays.

## How are they treated?

Several treatment options exist for such cysts. Many cysts get better with root canal treatment of the involved tooth. The cysts should be monitored with x-rays to ensure the problem improves – this can be done by your own dentist.

Cysts that fail to get better with such treatment should be surgically removed and checked under a microscope. This is often accompanied by an apicectomy (surgical removal of the tip of the root) of the tooth involved.

## Contacting us

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To find out more about our Trust visit [www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk](http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk)

**Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.**

RBFT Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, May 2024

Next review due: May 2026