

Pulpitis

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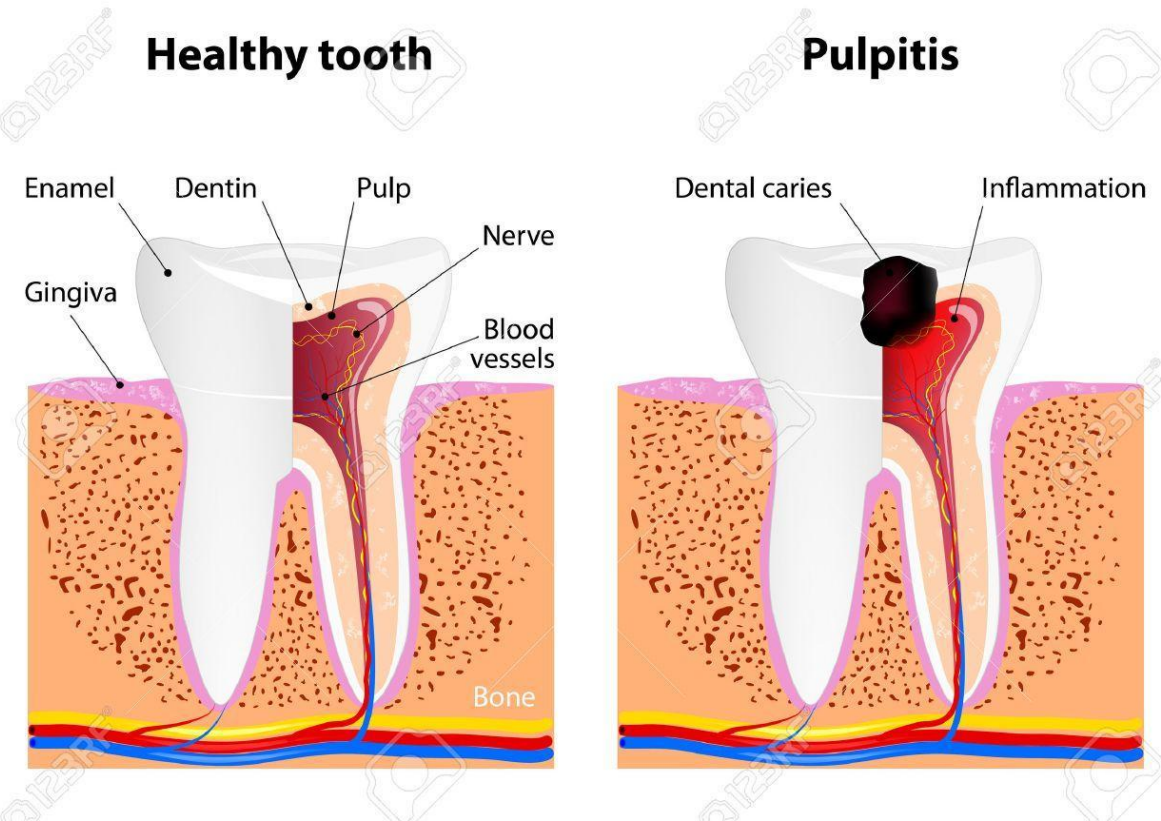
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Pulpitis is an inflammation of the pulp. The pulp is a spongy soft tissue of nerves and blood vessels encased tooth structure. In the crown, the enamel and dentine encases the pulp. When the integrity of the enamel and dentine is compromised eg through decay, the pulp is exposed to irritants.

This provokes a response which you feel as a toothache.

Pulpitis may be

- Reversible
- Irreversible



Causes of pulpitis

- Caries progresses deeply into the dentin
- A tooth requires multiple invasive procedures
- Trauma disrupts the lymphatic and blood supply to the pulp



Symptoms and Signs

Symptoms

- In **reversible pulpitis**, pain occurs when a stimulus (usually cold or sweet) is applied to the tooth.
- In **irreversible pulpitis**, pain occurs spontaneously or lingers minutes after the stimulus (usually heat) is removed. A patient may have difficulty locating the tooth from which the pain originates, even confusing the maxillary and mandibular arches (but not the left and right sides of the mouth). The pain may then cease for several days because of pulpal necrosis.

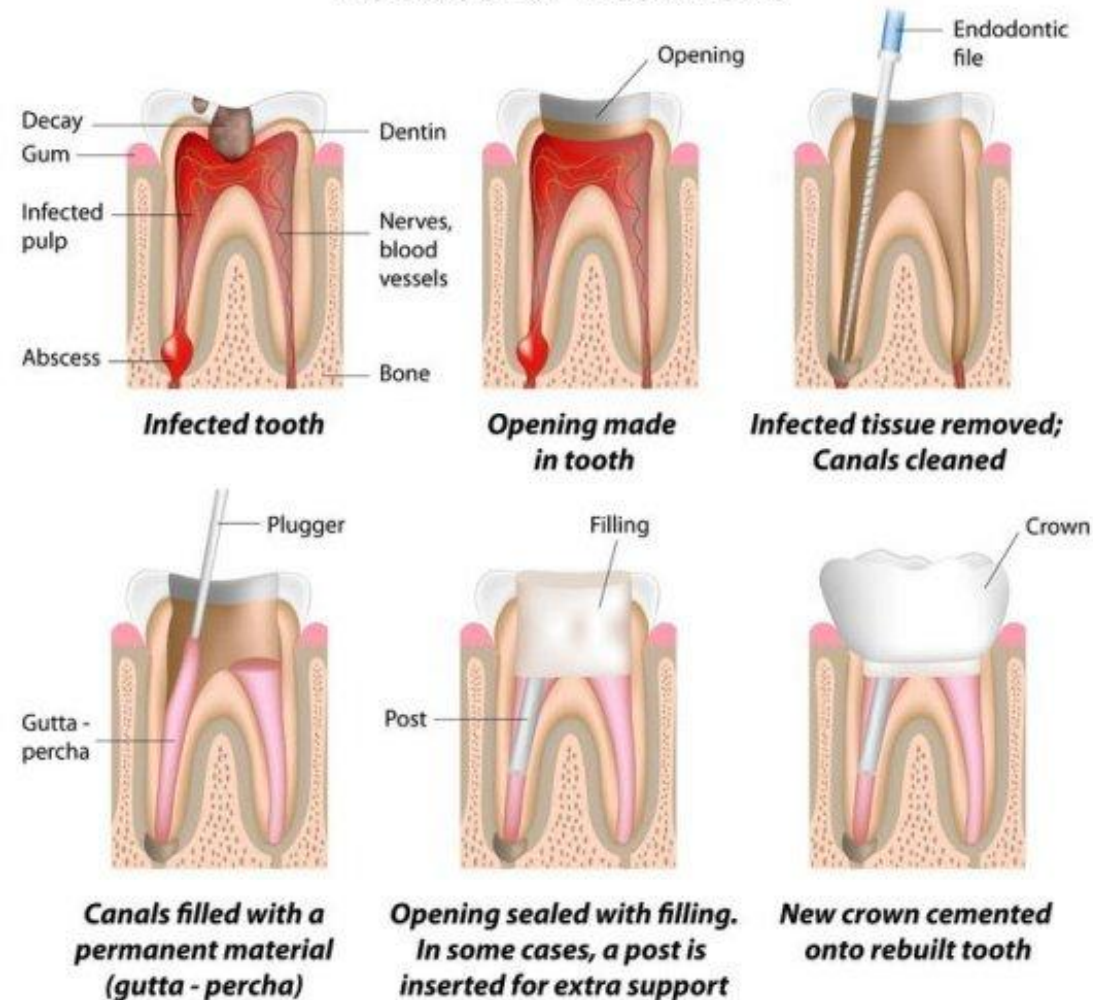
Diagnosis

- Clinical evaluation
- Sometimes dental x-rays



Treatment

Root Canal Treatment



- Drilling and filling for reversible pulpitis
- Root canal and crown or extraction for irreversible pulpitis
- Antibiotics (eg, amoxicillin) for infection
- In **reversible pulpitis**, pulp vitality can be maintained if the tooth is treated, usually by caries removal, and then restored.
- In **irreversible pulpitis**, the pulpitis and its sequelae require endodontic (root canal) therapy or tooth extraction.

Prevention

The best way to prevent toothache is to prevent dental disease. Decay can be prevented by,

- A sensible diet - limit snacking in between meals, and the consumption of refined carbohydrates eg sweets, cake, ice cream.
- Brushing your teeth with a fluoride tooth paste twice daily
- Flossing at least once a day
- Regular visits to the dentist for check up.



THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION!