

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

Match words with definitions

1. Also known as dental dam. *kofferdam*
2. The highest point, vertex of a tooth. Plural form 'apices'. *apex*
3. The instruments used during root canal treatment which look like tapered straight pins but on close inspection it can be seen or felt that their surface is rough, not smooth. These instruments literally are miniaturized rasps. *files*
4. Specialized dental drill. *handpiece*
5. This process involves flushing out teeth to remove debris and contaminants. *tooth irrigation*
6. To fill a hollow interior. *tooth sealing*
7. Root canal filling material that is a rubber compound. *gutta percha*
8. This apparatus warms a tube of gutta percha which then can be squeezed out into the tooth. *the gun*
9. The process of protecting the tooth from contaminating or keeping it dry during dental procedures with the help of a rubber dam. *isolating*

Read the text below and decide if the sentences are True or False

A dental dam or rubber dam (sometimes referred to "Kofferdam"—from German), is a thin, rectangular sheet, usually latex rubber, used to isolate the operative site (one or more teeth) from the rest of the mouth. Its purpose is both to prevent saliva interfering with the dental work (e.g. contamination of oral micro-organism during root canal therapy, or to keep filling materials such as composite dry during placement and curing), and to prevent instruments and materials from being inhaled, swallowed or damaging the mouth. Use of a rubber dam is sometimes referred to as *isolation*.

How does the procedure of placing rubber dam look like?

After numbing the patient up, dentist will "isolate" the tooth by way of placing a rubber dam.

- Dentist will punch a tiny hole near the dam center.
- He/she'll then stretch the sheet over patient's tooth so it alone sticks through the punched hole.
- A metal clamp is then positioned to hold the dam in place.

The portion of the tooth that sticks through the dam lies in a region where its environment can be controlled. The tooth can be washed, dried and kept saliva-free. A rubber dam sets the stage so treatment can be successfully performed.

1. Kofferdam is a term which describes the procedure of isolating in dentistry. T
2. Rubber dam is square and made of latex rubber. F
3. Rubber dam has a draining property. F
4. Rubber dam prevents micro-organisms from multiplying. F

5. Dental dam has also a safety role. It protects patient's mouth during the procedure. T
6. Inserting rubber dam into patient's mouth is very painful procedure for him/her. F

Read the extract from the e-mail sent by one of your patients. Use the hints below to answer it and provide some advice.

'I just had a root canal done today due to a deep filling I've had for a while. During the procedure, the general dentist broke the file inside the root. According to him, it should not be a problem but I am extremely concerned and don't feel comfortable having something there that shouldn't be. He said the tip broke off pretty deep. I am in a lot of pain. Could it be from the file or just the root itself? Should I be concerned that the file broke and remains in my root canal?'

1. recommend/ evaluation/ endodontistI would recommend an evaluation with an endodontist.....
2. necessary/ to be removed/ if there is a root fracture ...It will be necessary for the tooth to be removed if there is a root fracture.....
3. broken instrument/ incorporate/ into canal fillingThe broken instrument can be incorporated into canal filling
4. pain killers/ relieve painThe painkillers should relieve pain.....
5. pain persist/ dentist evaluate the tooth againIf the pain persists your dentist should evaluate the tooth again.....