

> A VIRGIN WITH CRACK
IT CAN HAPPEN

SEP
2011

This month's newsletter is a case report of a virgin tooth with cracked tooth syndrome I saw last week. The patient was a 43 year old healthy male who presented with extreme constant pain that was preventing him from sleeping, despite the use of Tylenol No. 3. He pointed directly to tooth No. 47 and said 'it is the last tooth on the lower right that is hurting bad'. The tooth could not tolerate even slightly warm liquids and light touch elicited extreme pain. He was physically and psychologically incapacitated. The other teeth in quadrant 4 responded WNL. It was difficult to visually inspect the tooth before the administration of local anaesthetic (inferior alveolar nerve block with 2 carpules 2% Lido 1:100K epi and buccal infiltration with 2 carpules Septanest N).

With the aid of our microscope a fracture line was seen extending from the distal marginal ridge across the occlusal table. Fortunately the fracture did not extend beyond the CEJ or across the chamber floor. The pulp was vital and a pulpectomy was performed. The tooth was taken completely out of occlusion (1-2mm of clearance) and the plunger cusp (palatal cusp) of 17 was adjusted. Whenever a fracture is found on a marginal ridge, it is prudent to examine the opposing dentition for plunger cusps.

In hindsight, an orthodontic band would be ideal to prevent further crack propagation. A core and crown are absolutely necessary after the completion of endodontic treatment. Otherwise a vertical root fracture will develop and the tooth will be lost. A long-term occlusal discrepancy caused this fracture; a nightguard, posterior on-lays, or orthodontic treatment to re-establish canine rise are possible treatment options.

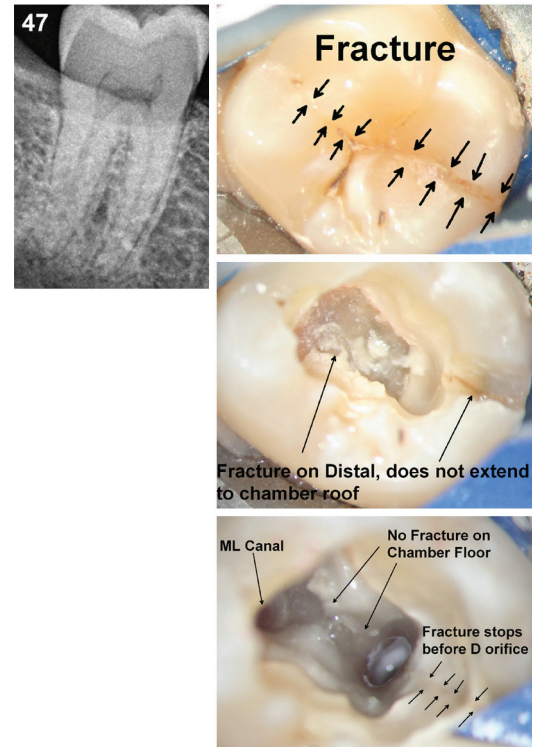
This is a typical case of 'cracked tooth syndrome'. Any tooth can fracture and mandibular molars are the most likely candidates. However, it is rare for a virgin mandibular molar to fracture.

Your comments about this and previous newsletters are always welcome. Please check our web page, Facebook Page, and the BCDA blog for an electronic version of this newsletter. If you prefer, an e-mail version of this newsletter can be sent as well. I look forward to working with you and your patients in the future.

Regards,



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Congratulations to the office of
Dr. Henson Po for winning the A-list
referral Prize for September!

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Extended hours are also available

This newsletter and all of the previous newsletters are posted on our Facebook page 'RICHMOND ENDODONTIC CENTRE' and will be available on the updated web page (coming soon) at www.endodonticcentre.com and the BCDA Discussion Forum Blog.

If you have any questions about this or other newsletters please contact our office.