

SETTING

Suburban Dental Clinic

PATIENT

You are a 22-year-old semi-professional basketball player. Last week, you knocked your second upper left front tooth while playing basketball. Over the past couple of days, you have been experiencing tooth pain and swollen gums. You are worried that you may lose your tooth. The dentist has just examined you.

TASK

- Tell the dentist that you thought your tooth felt loose and now you are really worried about losing it. Ask how it can be treated.
- Admit that you really don't want to have a root canal; there must be something else the dentist can do.
- Say that you are relieved the tooth can be saved and so will have a root canal like the dentist recommends. Say your friend had this and had to come to the dentist a couple of times.
- Ask what you should expect after the procedure.
- Say you are ready to get an X-ray taken.

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DENTIST

You see a 22-year-old semi-professional basketball player. He/she has tooth pain from his/her upper left lateral incisor (22). You have just examined the patient and found that the tooth is loose and has been moved from its original position, with swelling and inflammation of the gums indicating infection.

TASK

- Explain the findings of your examination (infection and damage to the tooth, tooth is loose, etc.).
- Outline treatment to clear the infection (e.g., root canal therapy, etc.).
- Give information about alternatives to root canal therapy (e.g., removal of the tooth and replacement with an implant/denture). Recommend root canal therapy (best option, most conservative option, etc.).
- Give details about the procedure (X-ray taken today, visit one: 'nerve' removed, clean and enlarge root canal, seal with temporary filling; visit 2: remove temporary filling, root canal filling inserted, sealed, etc.). Inform patient that he/she will be given a local anaesthetic.
- Explain the recovery process (some discomfort, eased with over-the-counter medication, avoid hard foods, etc.). Establish patient's consent to get an X-ray taken.