



**UNIT 8.1 TOOTH
ABSCESS
THE CAUSE OF
TOOTH ABSCESS**

The Cause of tooth abscess

A dental abscess can cause serious health complications, if left untreated. If you suspect that you might have an abscessed tooth, see your dentist right away. A tooth abscess will not heal itself - it requires treatment.

An abscess is actually a result of the immune system's effort to contain an infection and prevent it from spreading to other areas. The body sends white blood cells to the area of the infection to fight the bacteria. During this process pus forms, which is an accumulation of fluid, living and dead white blood cells, liquefied dead tissue and live and dead bacteria. If the pus is collected in a small, contained space with no way for pus to drain, it forms a pocket of infected liquid that is called an abscess.

In the mouth, abscesses form around the root tips of a tooth or in the gum tissue surrounding the teeth. As pus is accumulated, the pressure increases and the abscessed tooth often becomes increasingly more painful.

Sometimes the infection spreads even more causing a swollen face or forming a visible bump on the gum overlying the root (gumboil). The swollen area can rupture, allowing the pus to drain in the mouth. Once the abscess ruptures, the pain often decreases significantly, but the infection remains and dental treatment is still necessary.

As a tooth abscess develops, the infection can spread into the ligaments that secure the tooth to the jawbone and the jawbone itself. The bacteria and the immune system's response cause rapid destruction of connective tissues around the tooth and into the jawbone, and bone loss may occur. This causes teeth to become loose and may lead to tooth loss.

You must know that some treatments are not always covered by dental insurance plans. Learn how to check the terms and choose a dental insurance plan that will provide the best coverage for you and your family.

Fill in the correct word from the list below.

Health, developing, white, infected, swollen, visible, rapid, immune, decrease, contained.

... blood cell ... complication
... face ... abscess
... destruction ... significantly
... fluid ... bump
... system's response space

A compound noun consists of two or three words that function like one word.
There are very many compound nouns in English.

Tooth decay is an example of a compound noun, when two nouns combine together.

Match numbers to the letters.

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| 1. heart | a) card |
| 2. junk | b) ache |
| 3. blood | c) attack |
| 4. credit | d) food |
| 5. stomach | e) pressure |

What compound nouns can you think of? Give 5 examples.