

Treatment for Extraoral Cutaneous Sinus Tract of Endodontic Origin

Endodontic infection can sometimes lead to the formation of a chronic extraoral cutaneous sinus tract in the facial area.

Case 1: a 66-year old Chinese female has been suffering from a chronic cutaneous sinus tract in the left nasolabial fold area. Clinical exam revealed it is originated from an endodontically infected tooth #23 (notice it has a very long root). A long-term treatment protocol with intra- and extra- canal medications of Ca(OH)₂ and multi-mix antibiotics was applied for 8 months. Medication was deliberately extruded through the apex into the sinus tract. The cutaneous sinus tract opening showed closure after 1.5-month of medication and remain closed at 8-month. No systemic antibiotics was used.

Case 2: a 21-year old female of East Indian origin has been suffering from a chronic cutaneous sinus tract in her left lower cheek area. Clinical exam identified endodontically infected tooth #36 as the source. After thorough cleaning of the root canal system, Ca(OH)₂ paste was placed and deliberately extruded over the apexes into the sinus tract (see sinus tract filled with medication shown on the radiograph). The cutaneous sinus tract has shown clear signs of healing at 3-week time. This case is currently in progress. The same long-term intra-/extra- canal medication protocol will be used to treat this case.

Dr. Kevin L. Li DMD PhD FRCD©
 Certified Endodontic Specialist
 Diplomate American Board of Endodontics


