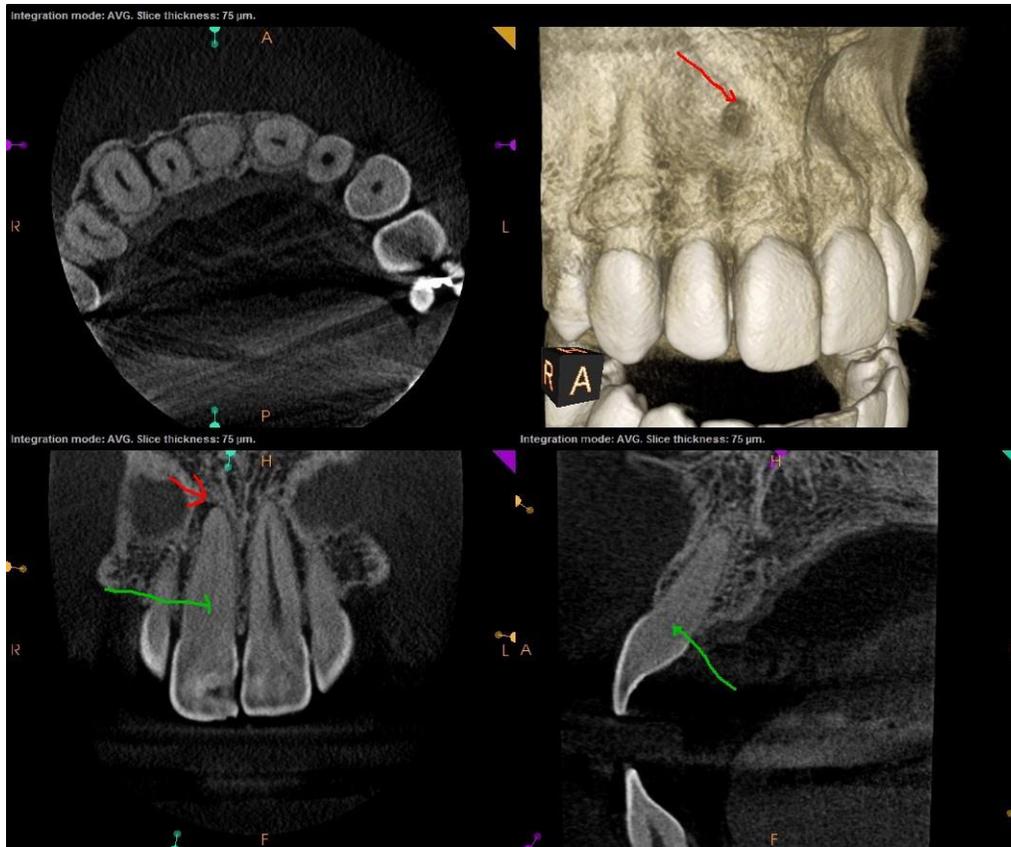


Endodontics and Esthetics

A 35 YO gentleman reported some discomfort and discoloration with his front tooth. He was planning to have orthodontics again and needed to have #8 evaluated. Symptoms were not acute but he noticed “a pulsating feel” since August. Here is the first PA x-ray we took. The root appeared to have severe calcification, not complete closure in my opinion.



Due to the calcification, I inquired about a history of trauma. Tooth #8 was avulsed in baseball when he was in 3rd grade. His mother was in the dental field so they knew how to treat immediately after the accident. The pediatric dentist placed the knocked out tooth and splinted it.



CBCT was taken to identify remaining pulpal space and the health of the periradicular tissue. CBCT showed receded pulpal tissue to the middle half of the root and a periapical lesion. During the clinical exam, palpation right on the lesion caused intense discomfort to the patient. Discussion of conventional RCT with the chance of not negotiating the canal and needing apicoectomy was discussed. Due to discoloration of the tooth, internal bleaching was also discussed. After explanation of what I interpreted on the CBCT and making him jump after pressing on the lesion, he was motivated to treat the tooth!



With the help of the CBCT and knowledge of calcified canals, location of the canal and negotiation was done atraumatically and with ease! I would say the challenge was the patience in bleaching the tooth. When a tooth is obliterated and discolored, only internal bleaching is effective. Otherwise, a crown or veneer, which is more invasive, could be done. Some teeth bleach in one week but others may take several appointments. One must be patient with the process. This case actually took 3 bleach changes so a total of 4 weeks! I forgot to take the initial shade picture but you can see the pictures progress to a smile! Now, let's hope for apical osseous healing at his 12 month recall. Another tooth saved conventionally!





One tooth at a time,

Dr. Phan