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## ABSCESS

### What is an abscess?

The localized collection of pus in a newly formed cavity is called an abscess. The cavity acts as a protective barrier that prevents the free circulation of the infection. The purulent liquid that fills it is formed by the disintegration and death of the original tissue, microorganisms and defense cells. If the pus is not expelled through a path of less resistance (fistula), the region becomes even more swollen and painful.

### What types of oral abscesses can be considered?

We can consider 2 types of abscesses in the mouth:

- **Gingival abscess** (also called a periodontal abscess) is usually caused by an infection in the space between the gum and the tooth. It is closely related to periodontal disease but can also occur through food impaction in the interdental space, infecting the gums;
- **Abscess related to tooth** (also called periapical abscess) usually caused by large caries. This type of infection occurs when the pulp ("tooth nerve") is dead (necrosis) or dying. It can cause abscesses of slow growth or rapid and painful growth.

### How should we treat the abscess?

This type of infection when related to the tooth and bone, causes bone destruction that can lead not only to the loss of dental pieces but also make future recovery of edentulous space impossible. In these cases, taking antibiotics does not cure / treat the infection. These work just as a complement to the real treatment that ranges from root straightening, endodontic or even tooth extraction.