

ROLEPLAYER CARD NO. 4

DENTISTRY

SETTING

Dental Clinic

PATIENT

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

TASK

- When asked, say you thought your tooth felt loose; you hope you won't lose it.
- Say you really don't want to have a root canal; there must be something else that can be done.
- When asked, say you're not worried about the pain or cost; you're worried about the amount of time it'll take. You don't live close by and you have lots of training and work commitments. Your friend had a root canal and had to go to the dentist a couple of times. You hope everything can be done in one visit.
- Ask what you should expect after the procedure.
- Say you're happy to hear the tooth can be saved, even if it means that you'll have to come back for more appointments; you'll have the root canal. Agree to have an X-ray taken.

CANDIDATE CARD NO. 4

DENTISTRY

SETTING

Dental Clinic

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; the tooth is loose and has been moved from its original position, with swelling and inflammation of the gums indicating infection.

TASK

- Give findings of examination (infection and damage to tooth, tooth is loose). Find out any patient concerns.
- Reassure patient tooth can be saved using root canal therapy (e.g., clearing of infection: repairing damaged inside of tooth, removing dental pulp, filling and sealing space, etc.).
- Provide information on alternatives to root canal therapy (e.g., removal of tooth, replacement with implant/denture, etc.). Recommend root canal therapy as best option (e.g., most conservative option, etc.). Find out patient's reason for not wanting root canal (pain, cost, etc.).
- Emphasise need for two additional visits (e.g., X-ray taken today, etc.). Explain steps for visit 1 (e.g., 'nerve' removed, cleaning, enlarging root canal, sealing with temporary filling, etc.). Explain steps for visit 2 (e.g., removing temporary filling, root canal filling inserted, sealed, etc.).
- Explain recovery process (e.g., some discomfort, over-the-counter medication, avoiding hard foods, etc.). Establish patient's consent for X-ray.