

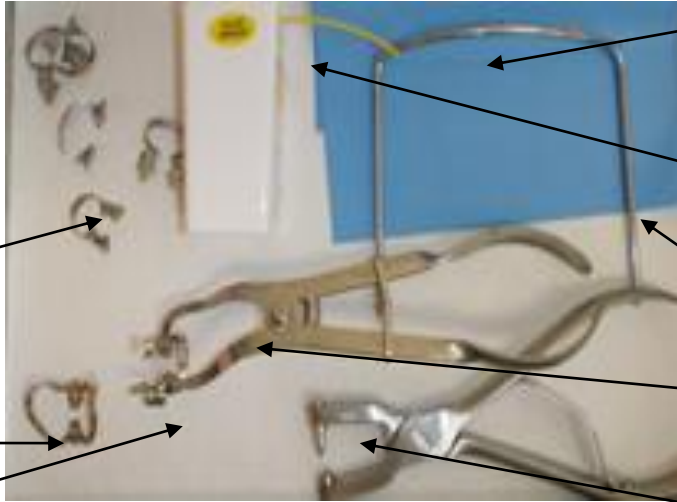
Rubber Dam

To isolate one or more teeth to ensure they are not contaminated by saliva

A kit of instruments is usually kept ready for this procedure

Rubber dam clamps come in different shapes for different teeth so the clamp will fit tightly to the tooth.

Some clamps have wings to hold the dam onto the clamp when placing the clamp
Butterfly for anteriors and large clamps for molars.



The dam may come in different thicknesses and may be latex or non latex (to prevent allergies)

Wedges (rubber band) to keep the dam between the teeth.

A frame to hold the dam tight away from the tooth.

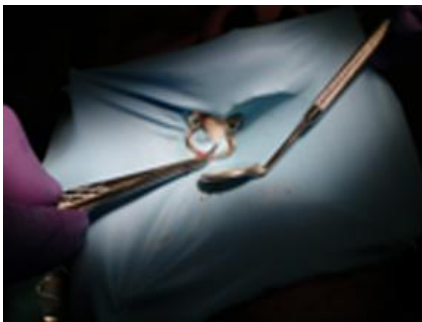
Rubber dam forceps to stretch the clamp over the tooth.

A hole punch to make a hole in the dam for each tooth.

The clamp is placed into the hole in the rubber dam and then stretched to fit over the tooth. Sometimes floss is tied to the clamp in case it springs off the forceps.



The clamp is pushed right down to the gum margin and the dam is pushed off the wings to form a tight seal round the tooth.



The rubber dam is stretched over the frame and the tooth is now isolated from the mouth.

There is no danger of dropping small instruments during root canal treatment.

There is no risk of bacteria from the mouth getting into a root canal.

There is no risk of dangerous chemicals going into the mouth.

There is no risk of saliva contaminating enamel and dentine when trying to bond to them.



Several teeth can be put through the rubber dam to allow the dentist to see the shape and colour of the adjacent (next to) teeth and be able to get a good contact with the adjacent tooth if placing a filling.

Notice the use of wedgets (yellow rubber band) at either end to keep the dam in place.

Good practice to place some gauze over the patient's face, wipe some vaseline on the lips and place a saliva ejector in the floor of the mouth.