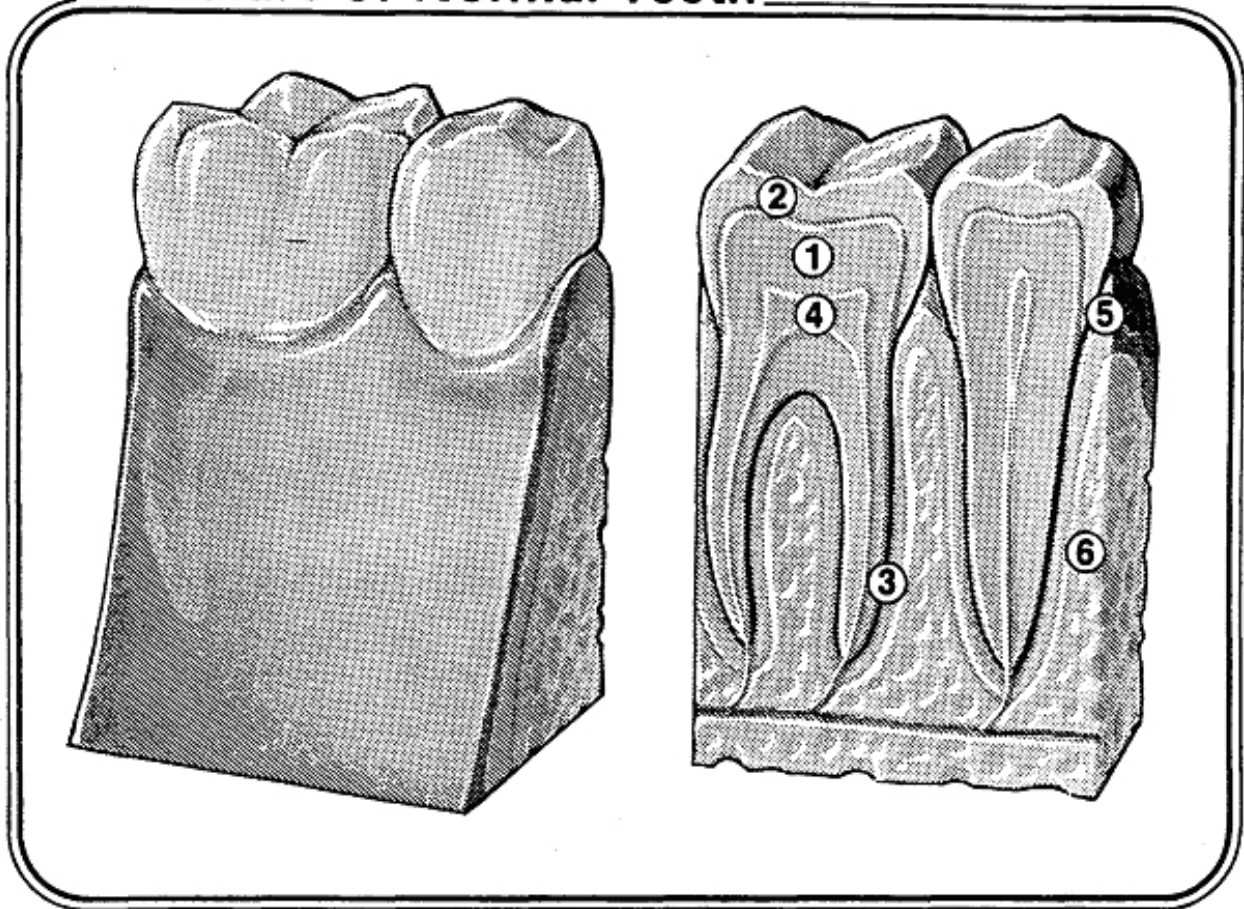


STRUCTURE OF NORMAL TEETH

TO YOUR HEALTH - PATIENT EDUCATION HANDOUT

Structure of Normal Teeth



Your teeth are part of a very complex system that is primarily designed to allow you to chew your food (the masticatory system). They also assist in your speech and add facial beauty. But there is more to your teeth than meets the eye. A tooth is composed of a hard inner structure called dentin (1). The dentin structure is encased by enamel (2) on the exposed surface and cementum (3) on the root surface. A hollow pulp cavity (4) is located within the center of the tooth. This pulp cavity is filled with a jelly-like substance containing nerves and blood vessels. These nerves and blood vessels enter the tooth at the end of the root. Teeth are supported by the surrounding gums (gingiva) (5) and bone (6). The care of your teeth is very important not only for the teeth themselves, but also the supporting structures. There are four kinds of teeth: incisors, canines, premolars and molars.

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618-536-2421