

## **Guidelines when using an apex locator**

- ⇒ Ensure all pulp tissue has been removed from the canal.
- ⇒ If a lateral canal is present, dry the liquid below the canal.
- ⇒ If there is a reading in the cervical area, you may have cervical leakage, a cervical lateral canal or a cervical perforation. Dry it with air and paper point.
- ⇒ Make certain the loop and lip are in contact to ensure electrical continuity.
- ⇒ A smaller file in a large canal may give you an erratic reading.
- ⇒ Repeated use with the same tooth for too long may enlarge the foramen and create inaccurate readings.
- ⇒ Other causes for inaccurate readings: hidden fracture in the root, canal obstructed by dentin shavings, canal calcification, open foramen or presence of large lateral canals.

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