Objectives
To describe an alternative approach to a traditional endodontic access opening made possible by the patient’s presentation with severe facial caries. Goals of an endodontic access preparation include unroofing the pulp chamber, locating the canal orifice, and conserving tooth structure while facilitating canal instrumentation and obturation. Access openings on anterior teeth are traditionally placed on the lingual surface for esthetics and restorative purposes. However, studies show that a more labially oriented opening provides better straight-line access to the canal space. An endodontic treatment option for an anterior tooth with significant facial caries, avoiding a traditional lingual access, is presented. A facial access opening is utilized, leveraging only the loss of tooth structure from the caries removal to enter the canal and enable treatment.

Methods
A patient with extensive facial caries on tooth #8 diagnosed as symptomatic irreversible pulpitis with symptomatic apical periodontitis presented to the clinic. During caries removal, a facial pulp exposure occurred. Via this exposure direct access to the canal system was attained, facilitating treatment, and left the lingual surface untouched. Endodontic therapy was completed; both the access preparation and facial surface were restored with glass ionomer. The patient is scheduled for a full coverage crown.

Discussion
A completed endodontic and restorative procedure which avoided extensive tooth loss and more complex restorative treatment.

Conclusions
A caries leveraged access opening is an efficient and tooth structure sparing approach which can be used in teeth presenting with gross caries.