

## Cold Test

### Always test:

- **multiple teeth-** studies reveal most patients can only narrow source of posterior pain to three adjacent teeth.
- **contralateral teeth-** for comparison.
- **opposing teeth-** pain commonly referred to opposing teeth.

Use **loosely woven cotton** (typically purchased from grocery or drug store)

- cotton tip applicators are too small- fail to hold proper amount of cold.
- cotton rolls are too large- cold is dispersed and less concentrated.
- cotton pellets can be too tightly packed- fail to hold proper amount of cold.

**Apply cotton to occlusal or facial surfaces** but best response for crowns is often from facial surface.

### RCT indicated by:

1. **Severe response which may linger** -irreversible pulpitis.
2. **No response** -necrotic.

**Beware of multiple positive teeth-** possible cervical abrasion or dentinal hypersensitivity.

**Beware of false negatives-** response dampened by crowns or pulpal calcification (common in elderly).

**Remember that the first response will give the best response-**repeated testing often elicits diminished results.

**Allow time after testing each tooth for delayed or lingering responses-** do not proceed until response has subsided.