

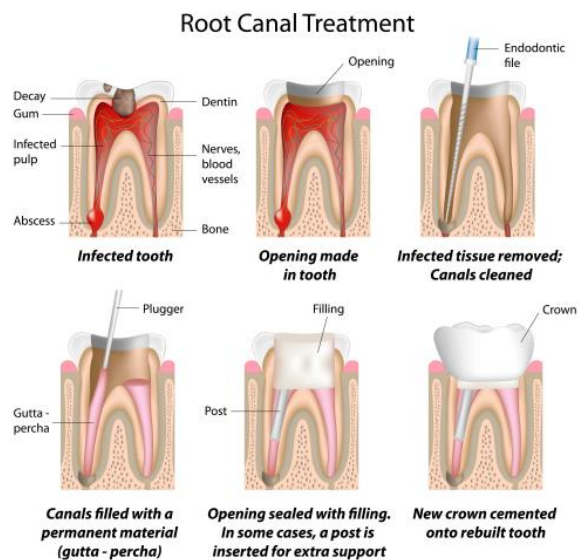
What is Endodontic Treatment?

What is it?

To understand what Endodontic treatment (root canal) is, it helps to know some basic anatomy of the tooth. Our teeth can be split into two basic parts, the crown (what is visible in your mouth) and the roots (that hold the teeth in the jaw). Most of the crown and root is formed up of very hard materials called enamel and dentine. At the centre of this is a canal containing the nerves and blood vessels that supply the tooth. The canal runs from the tips of the roots to the crown of the tooth, the soft tissue housed inside this is called the dental pulp.

Endodontic treatment is required when the pulp inside the tooth has become irritated or infected. In other words, bacteria from your mouth has entered and infected the inside of the tooth. If left untreated, it can cause pain or lead to abscess formation.

The pulp allows the tooth to grow, however fully developed teeth can survive without the pulp as the tooth is nourished by surrounding tissues. Root canal treatment seeks to eliminate bacteria from infected root canals, preventing reinfection and saving the tooth. The inflamed/infected pulp will be removed, and the inside of the tooth is carefully disinfected, then filled and sealed.



The benefits of root canal treatment are that we will remove pain, the source of infection and aim to restore the tooth back to its proper function. There are some risks involved with root canal treatment, success rates are around 80% so if infection recurs the tooth may need retreatment. Should you wish to opt for root canal treatment, your dentist will go through in detail any other risks.

What will I feel?

We understand some patients get nervous during their appointments, we aim to make your treatment as smooth and painless as possible. Since patients are given anaesthesia, a root canal isn't more painful than a regular dental procedure, such as a filling or getting a wisdom tooth removed. However, a root canal is generally a bit sore or numb after the procedure and can even cause mild discomfort for a few days.

Root canal treatments can be lengthy appointments, anaesthetic helps to eliminate any pain you would feel from the tooth, however you may experience some discomfort from having to keep your jaw open. If that is the case, let your dentist know and you can shortly pause treatment to rest your jaw.

Alternatives to Endodontic treatment:

1. **Extraction:** Having this tooth removed will result in a space that may be replaced by a bridge, removable partial denture or implant.
2. **No Treatment:** If I decide upon not having the recommended treatment, my condition may worsen and I may risk severe pain, localised infection, loss of this tooth and possibly other teeth, severe swelling and or severe infection that may be potentially fatal.