

ROOT CANAL TREATMENT

40 Million Root Canal Treatments are Performed Yearly in America

More than 300 Types of Bacteria Make up Dental Plaque, which can Cause Severe Dental Related Illnesses and Complications

Endodontic root canal treatment is a relatively standard procedure that can be performed in a provider's office with limited impact on your daily function. This treatment may provide relief from symptoms and prevent further and more severe damage to the tooth. However it is important to fully understand any procedure and to understand any and all options available to you.

Please use this guide as a resource for knowledge and understanding of dead root canal causes, symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment.

01 | Cause

A root canal is necessary when a tooth has suffered extreme decay, or fracture that has caused bacteria and infection to reach the pulp of the tooth. The pulp of the tooth contains blood vessels, nerves and connective tissue. Infected pulp can cause the root of the tooth to form abscesses in the jaw bone, this can lead to serious illness and can be dangerous if left untreated.

02 | Symptoms

Symptoms may not be present when a tooth is in decay, or if the pulp/root is infected. Over time as the severity of the tooth health decreases more symptoms may be felt or seen. When a tooth begins to decay, cavities may form and may be visible. As the decay progresses the cavities may progress, get larger and deeper the tooth because at risk for needing a root canal. When this occurs symptoms may include, toothaches, jaw pain, swelling of the gums, neck or face, sensitivity to cold/ hot or sweetness.

03 | Treatment

After an x ray is taken, and a thorough examination of the tooth, the provider will determine the tooth's condition and course of action. After determination of a dead root, infected pulp, or root abscess the procedure process is typically as follows:

- Anesthesia is applied around the tooth to help with pain and sensitivity
- A rubber dam is put in place in order to keep the tooth dry and to prevent bacteria from entering the tooth
- A access hole is drilled into the tooth
- All decay, bacteria and debris is removed from the tooth
- The tooth is then filled and sealed
- The tooth is prepped for a crown if necessary, due to extensive damage, decay, and large filling leaving the tooth with insufficient protection and structure
- A temporary crown is created, while molds are sent to a lab to create a permanent crown

04 | After Care

After receiving a root canal treatment you may experience pain, swelling, discomfort, or sensitivity in the area due to aggravated gums and nerves. However the tooth itself will no longer feel any kind of discomfort because the root has been removed, leaving the tooth "dead" to the nerves. It is important that after this procedure you maintain with proper dental hygiene and you follow any direction given by your provider.

For more information on root canals and other endodontic conditions, please visit:

<http://www.aae.org>

*Did You Know?
Tooth enamel is the
hardest part of the body*

References

<http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/tooth-abscess/multimedia/root-canal/sls-20076717>

<http://www.webmd.com/oral-health/guide/dental-root-canals#1>