
Altered feeling – during and after treatment the tooth may feel slightly different and this should disappear gradually.

File fracture – Special metal files are used during the procedure. These instruments are very fine and occasionally may break off inside the tooth. Special procedures or specialist intervention may be needed if this happens. At Toothworkx we have a strict “one use only” policy and other procedures in place to greatly reduce the risk of this happening

Re-treatment – Pain or infection may occur months or years after a tooth has been treated usually due to further decay or trauma causing infection. More treatment may be needed at this point.

Root Canal Treatment



Creating Smiles with Care



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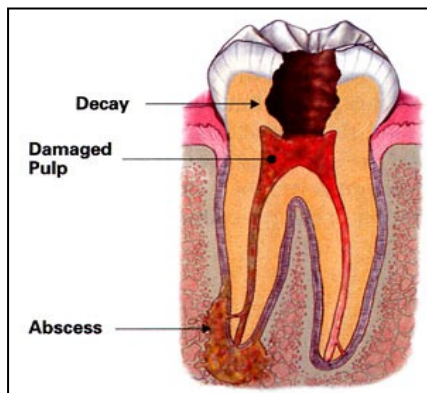
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The aim of root canal treatment is to save a tooth that has been badly damaged due to decay, disease or injury. Most people prefer to save their tooth rather than have an inferior artificial tooth in its place. The natural tooth is more efficient for biting and chewing and will generally function better than a substitute. Missing teeth can cause problems such as: movement of adjacent teeth, further decay and gum disease due to difficult access and problems with biting and chewing. All general dentists are trained to perform root canal treatment. Some patients may be referred to an “Endodontist” who specialises in the procedure.

Why is a root canal treatment necessary?

If the pulp becomes infected, the infection may spread through the root canal system of the tooth. This may eventually lead to an abscess. An abscess is an inflamed area in which pus collects and can cause swelling of the tissues around the tooth. The symptoms of an abscess can range from a dull ache to severe pain and the tooth may be tender when you bite. If root canal treatment is not carried out, the infection will spread and the tooth may need to be taken out.



What does the procedure involve?

The aim of the treatment is to remove all infection from the root canal. The root is then cleaned and filled to prevent any further infection. Root canal treatment is a skilled and time-consuming procedure. Most courses of treatment will involve two or more visits to your dentist.

At the first appointment, the infected pulp is removed, and any abscesses can be drained. The root canal is then cleaned and shaped ready for the filling. A temporary filling is put in and the tooth is left to settle. The tooth is checked at a later visit and when all the infection has cleared, the tooth is permanently filled. This can be done with normal filling material; however, as a dead tooth is more brittle, it may be necessary to restore the tooth with a crown to provide extra support and strength to the tooth.

Root canal treatment is usually very successful. However, if the infection comes back, the treatment can sometimes be repeated.



Possible side effects of root canal treatment

As with all medical and dental procedures, root canal treatment has risks. The following are a list of *possible* side effects of this procedure:

Loss of tooth – while root canal treatment can save most teeth, it is impossible to guarantee that it will be successful in every case. A very importance factor is the final restoration (filling or crown). Be certain to have your tooth restored completely as bacteria can re-enter a tooth and cause another infection.

Infection – The risks of re-infection are very low. However, if the infection occurs again, re-treatment or removal may be necessary.

Discoloration – In some cases, the tooth may lose its original whiteness. If the person is unhappy with the appearance of the tooth it can be treated with bleaching or an artificial crown or veneer.

Pain or discomfort – It is normal to experience this around the tooth during and following treatment. If the pain is severe or lasts more than a few days, tell your dentist.

Weakness – A root canal treated tooth may not be as strong and durable as a normal tooth. This is especially true for the back molars, which is why a crown is recommended to protect the more brittle tooth.