

Root Canal Treatment

What is a Root Canal

Root canal treatment is designed to treat a tooth with an inflamed or infected pulp (nerve and tissue within the tooth). When a root canal is performed, the pulp is removed and the inside of the tooth is carefully cleaned and disinfected, then filled and sealed.

Pulp infection and inflammation most often occur if you have a cracked or chipped tooth, a deep cavity or filling, previous trauma or other serious injury to the tooth.

Signs that a Root Canal May Be Necessary

- Severe pain while chewing or biting
- Swelling, drainage or pimples on the gums
- Deep decay, chipped, cracked or injured tooth
- Lingering sensitivity to hot or cold, even after the sensation has been removed

Root Canal Procedure

After the tooth is numbed, the canals within the tooth are thoroughly cleaned and shaped with special tools, and medicated fluids are used to rinse the inside of the tooth.

In many cases, the root canal procedure is completed in 2 visits in order to minimize the chance of reinfection. Once completed, the tooth will usually have a temporary filling until a separate procedure is performed to complete a permanent crown or filling.

Home care

Do not eat for one hour, or until your numbness is gone, and do not bite on numb lips, tongue or cheek. **It is normal to experience moderate soreness, sensitivity to biting, and soreness in the jaw.** These are common symptoms, and any soreness or sensitivity should improve over time. Call our office if any symptoms do not improve over time, or if new pain or swelling develops.

Continue taking any medication as prescribed. Eat softer food and try not to chew on that side of your mouth. Be careful when brushing the tooth, and avoid flossing around a temporary filling. Any pain should improve within a few days, depending on the severity of inflammation and infection.

Follow up with the placement of the permanent restoration (crown or filling) once the root canal has been completed and symptoms improve. Delay in placement of a final restoration may permanently damage the tooth.

