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ROOT CANAL TREATMENT



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ROOT CANAL TREATMENTS ARE A PROCESS TO REMOVE THE NERVE FROM INSIDE A TOOTH AND PROVIDE RELIEF FROM PAIN AND DISCOMFORT

Root Canal Treatments are necessary for a wide range of causes:

- Deep Decay in Teeth
- Deep Cracks in Teeth
- Extreme Tooth Sensitivity
- Pain and Discomfort associated with the Tooth's Nerve

Root Canal Treatment involves the following stages:

Appointment One: Tooth is numbed, Root Canal is cleaned and measurements taken, antibiotics are placed to kill remaining bacteria.

Appointment Two: Antibiotics are flushed away and the final Root Canal Filling is placed. To enhance the effects of the antibiotics, it is usual to have a one week gap between the Root Canal Appointments for maximum antibacterial effectiveness.

Where do I start?

Firstly, you need to have an assessment to determine that Root Canal Treatment is required and would be effective. Sometimes other treatments are more appropriate such as a new filling or extraction of the tooth. If required, Root Canal Treatment should be performed as soon as possible so that tooth ache does not commence. The sooner an infection is treated inside a tooth, the better the prognosis for the treatment and the tooth.

What else do I need to consider?

Root Canal Treatment is a treatment which corrects the area in the dental pulp. Because your tooth will still remain weak after a Root Canal, you will often require a Crown over the top of the tooth if the tooth has a large filling, decay or a crack.

Root Canal Treatment will fail in approximately 5 to 10% of cases, and this failure is often due to resistant bacteria inside the tooth. Re-treatment is then an option, but more cost!

Teeth cracks and very weak teeth may often be better removed rather than having Root Canal Treatment. You can feel assured our Dentists will assess each tooth on an individual basis and identify cracks as early as possible, but this may not always be the case, and later on, the crack may become more evident when the tooth breaks apart.

Referral to a Root Canal Specialist is required in some difficult teeth, and particularly necessary if a previous Root Canal Treatment has failed.

Can I avoid Root Canal Treatment?

The best way to avoid Root Canal Treatment is to follow the advice of your Dentist at six monthly check-ups. This may mean placing a crown on a tooth to protect the tooth's strength which would protect the nerve from needing root canal.

However, when your tooth has already died or is painful, then Root Canal Treatment is required. This will instantly make the pain go away.

Otherwise your only other treatment option is to have the tooth removed. Occasionally extraction is preferred to Root Canal Treatment (e.g. when the tooth is very broken or weak) but in general, Root Canal Treatment should be performed.



Read our Informed Treatment Brochure on Root Canal Treatment for further details

ROOT CANAL TREATMENT – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is Root Canal Treatment Painful?

No. Root Canal Treatments are painless. Your tooth will require a Local Anaesthetic (Injection), and once numb you will not experience any discomfort during the procedure. It is often rumoured to be painful, but this often comes about as the result of putting off treatment and not having the Root Canal Treatment early enough. During and immediately after the procedure there is no pain experienced.

At what stage does Tooth Decay cause Root Canal Problems?

Stage One Tooth Decay: Tooth may be normal or slightly sensitive, requires filling only

Stage Two Tooth Decay: Tooth may be very sensitive, requires filling, but may require root canal

Stage Three Tooth Decay: Tooth is extremely sensitive, tooth aches or is sore to pressure, needs Root Canal Treatment



Stage One Tooth Decay



Stage Two Tooth Decay



Stage Three Tooth Decay

How long does the appointment take?

Root Canal Treatment takes approximately two appointments of one hour.

Will the tooth be sore afterwards?

No. Usually all pain from prior to treatment is gone after the Local Anaesthetic wears off. Occasionally, the antibiotics inside the tooth may make the tooth mildly tender to chew on for 48 hours, but with a softer diet, discomfort to chewing can be minimised.

Are Root Canal Treatments safe?

Root Canal Treatments are a safe treatment using biocompatible materials to seal the inside of the root canal of a tooth. There is no proven evidence that root canal fillings are not safe. However, the Root Canal Treatment can carry risks and complications including: Difficult to clean root canals, resistant bacteria, curved anatomy, cracks, broken instruments in tight canals, re-infection and leaking fillings into the root canal allowing bacteria in again.

How much does a Root Canal Treatment cost?

The cost of Root Canal Treatments will vary depending on the number of root canals in the tooth and the complexity of treatment. A Front Tooth Treatment starts from approximately \$1200 and a back tooth molar from approximately \$2,200. You will most likely require a Crown after the Root Canal Treatment is completed. A Crown starts from approximately \$2,000.

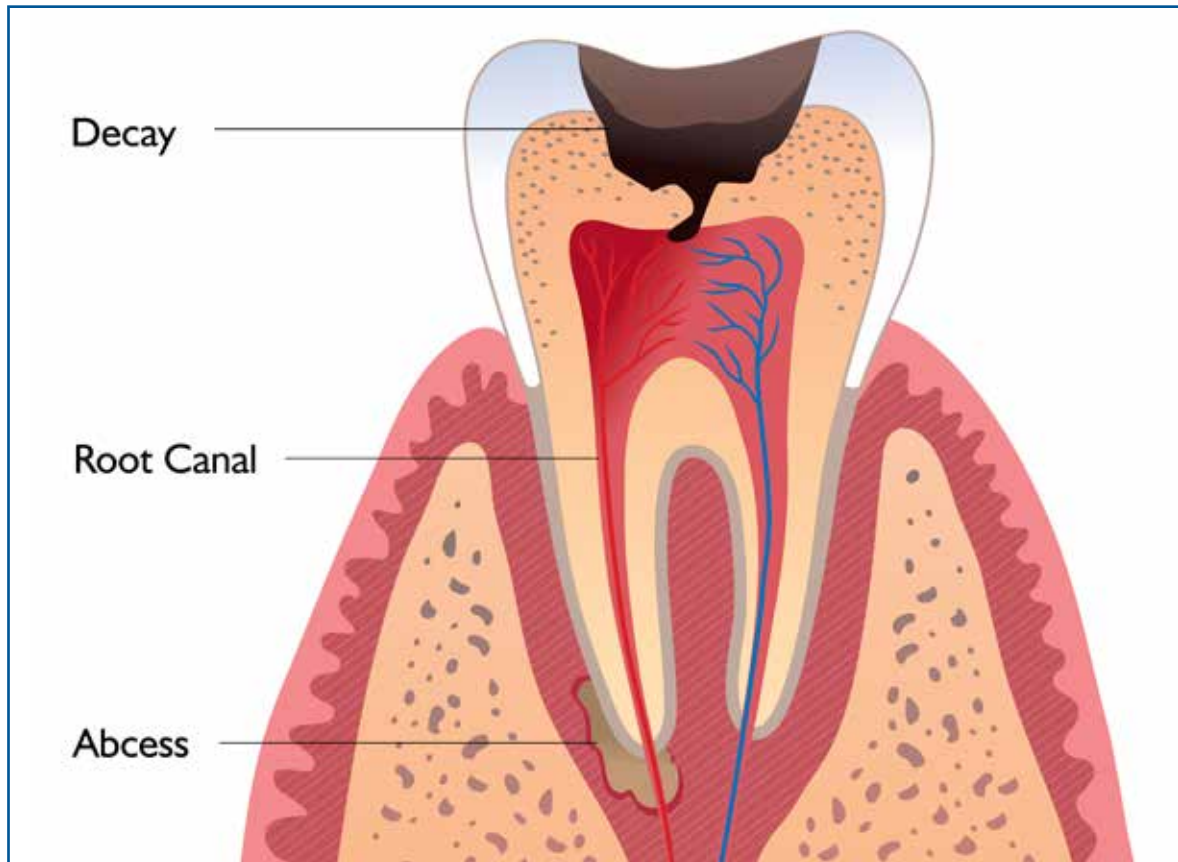
What will the Root Canal Treatment involve?

Consultation Appointment: X-Rays of Tooth, Cold and Biting Tests, Diagnosis and Explanation of Treatment

First Root Canal Appointment: Local Anaesthetic (Injection), Drilling, Cleaning of root canal with Files and Drill, Measurements with Locating Device and X-Ray, Place Antibiotics, Temporary Filling

Second Root Canal Appointment: Local Anaesthetic (Injection), Drilling, Flushing away of Antibiotics, Placement of Root Canal Filling, Temporary Filling

Following Appointments: Permanent Crown or Filling



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