

ROOT CANAL

A **root canal** is the space within the root of a tooth is a tooth canal. Part of the canal within a tooth, consists of tooth nerve. A root canal is one of the most common dental procedures performed, well over 10 million every year.

If you experience any of these symptoms, your dentist will most likely recommend non-surgical treatment to eliminate the diseased tooth nerve. This injured tooth nerve is removed and the root canal system is thoroughly cleaned and sealed. This therapy usually involves local anesthesia and may be completed in one or more visits depending on the treatment required. Success for this type of treatment occurs in about 90% of cases.

If your tooth is not amenable to a root canal treatment or the chance of success is unfavorable, you will be informed at the time of consultation or when a complication becomes evident during or after treatment. We use local anesthesia to eliminate discomfort. In addition, we provide nitrous oxide analgesia and IV sedation if requested. You are able to drive home after your treatment, and you probably be comfortable returning to your normal routine with in 48 hours.

Root Canal Process

Endodontic therapy or **root canal therapy** is treatment for the nerve of the tooth which results in the removal of infection and the protection of the decontaminated tooth from future bacterial in the saliva. Then filling of the cleaned and decontaminated canals is done with a filling material name gutta-percha.

At the center of your tooth is the canal space. This space is a collection of blood vessels that helps to build the surrounding tooth. Infection of the space can be caused by trauma to the tooth, cavity, cracks and chips, or repeated dental procedures. Symptoms of the infection can be identified as visible injury or swelling of the tooth, sensitivity to temperature or pain in the tooth and gums.

This simple treatment can save your natural teeth and prevent the need of dental implants or bridges.

Root canal therapy can be performed in a baby and permanent tooth.

Root Canal Recovery

Upon completion of your root canal therapy, your dentist or endodontist will send you home with instructions for pain management and how to care for your tooth while recovering from treatment. Following guidelines for recovery care is important if a temporary filling or crown is in place.

As the anesthesia medication used to numb your mouth during the procedure wears off, you may feel some tenderness in the area for a few days as everything heals and some mild soreness in your jaw near the ear from keeping your mouth open for an extended period during the procedure. These temporary symptoms usually respond well to over-the-counter medication. Your dentist may prescribe stronger, narcotic medication as well. It's important to follow the instructions for medications since narcotics can make you drowsy not allowing. You should exercise caution when taking them and driving a car or operating dangerous machinery.