



## Root Canal Treatment / RCT FAQs

### What is root canal treatment?

Root canal treatment, also known as endodontic treatment, is a procedure used to save an infected or decayed tooth. It involves removing the infected or damaged pulp from the tooth's root canal, cleaning and disinfecting the area, and then sealing it to prevent further infection.

### Why is root canal treatment necessary?

Root canal treatment is necessary when the pulp, the soft tissue inside the tooth, becomes infected or damaged. This can happen due to untreated cavities, cracked or chipped teeth, or trauma to the tooth. If left untreated, the infection can spread to the surrounding tissues and cause severe pain, abscesses, and even tooth loss.

### How can I tell if I need a root canal treatment?

Some common signs that you may need a root canal include severe toothache, sensitivity to hot or cold temperatures, swelling and tenderness around the tooth, darkening of the tooth, and a recurring pimple on the gums. However, only a dentist can determine if a root canal is necessary after conducting a thorough examination.

### Does root canal treatment hurt?

Contrary to popular belief, root canal treatment is not as painful as people think. With modern advancements in dental technology and anesthesia, the procedure is relatively painless. Most patients report feeling minimal discomfort during and after the procedure. Your dentist will also prescribe medication to alleviate any post-operative pain or discomfort.



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### **How long does a root canal procedure take?**

The length of a root canal procedure can vary depending on the complexity of the case. On average, it takes one to two appointments to complete a root canal. The first appointment typically involves cleaning out the infected pulp and applying medication. The second appointment focuses on sealing the root canal and placing a dental crown or filling on the tooth.

### **How long does a root canal last?**

With proper oral hygiene and regular dental check-ups, a root canal-treated tooth can last a lifetime. However, it is essential to maintain good oral hygiene practices, such as brushing twice a day, flossing daily, and visiting your dentist regularly, to ensure the longevity of the restored tooth.

### **Can a root canal fail?**

While root canal treatment is a highly successful procedure, there is a slight chance of failure. It can occur if the tooth was not properly cleaned and disinfected, the canals were not thoroughly sealed, or if a new infection develops. In such cases, retreatment or an apicoectomy, which involves removing the tip of the tooth's root, may be necessary.

### **Are there any alternatives to root canal treatment?**

The only alternative to root canal treatment is tooth extraction. However, extracting a tooth should be considered a last resort, as it can lead to other problems such as shifting of teeth, difficulty chewing, and loss of bone in the jaw. It is generally recommended to save the natural tooth whenever possible.

### **Can I drive home after a root canal?**

Generally, you should be able to drive home after a root canal procedure. However, if you received sedation or anesthesia during the treatment, you may feel lightheaded or drowsy afterwards. In such cases, it is best to have someone accompany you or arrange for transportation.



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### **Can I eat normally after a root canal?**

After a root canal, it is best to avoid chewing on the treated tooth until the permanent filling or dental crown is placed. This is to prevent any damage to the tooth. However, you can typically resume your regular diet once the tooth is fully restored.

### **Is root canal treatment safe?**

Yes, root canal treatment is a safe and common dental procedure. Dentists are trained and experienced in performing root canals, ensuring patient safety and comfort. By addressing the underlying infection and preserving the natural tooth, root canal treatment can help restore oral health and function.

### **Is root canal treatment only for adults?**

No, root canal treatment can be performed on children as well. Baby teeth, also known as primary teeth, play a crucial role in the development of permanent teeth and should be preserved whenever possible. Your dentist will determine if root canal treatment is suitable for your child based on their specific case.

In conclusion, root canal treatment is a safe and effective treatment for saving infected or damaged teeth. With the use of modern dental techniques, the procedure has become relatively painless. If you experience tooth pain or other symptoms, it is essential to consult with a dentist, who can diagnose the problem and recommend the appropriate treatment option for your specific dental needs.



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