

## WHAT IS A ROOT CANAL?

A root canal is a dental procedure used to treat an infection or damage deep inside a tooth. It involves removing the infected or damaged tissue from inside the tooth to relieve pain and save the tooth.

## WHY MIGHT I NEED A ROOT CANAL?

- You may have tooth decay that has reached the pulp.
- Your tooth may have experienced trauma or injury that has damaged the pulp.
- Infection or inflammation of the pulp (pulpitis).
- Recurrent dental procedures on the tooth, leading to pulp damage.
- Provide additional retention for restorative purposes.

## Benefits of Root Canal Therapy:

- Saves the natural tooth, preventing the need for extraction.
- Relieves pain and discomfort caused by dental infection or inflammation.
- Restores normal tooth function for chewing and biting.

## WHAT HAPPENS DURING A ROOT CANAL?

**Diagnosis:** Your dentist will examine your tooth and take X-rays to determine if a root canal is necessary.

**Anesthesia:** Local anesthesia is administered to numb the tooth and surrounding area, ensuring you feel no pain during the procedure.

**Access:** Your dentist creates a small opening in the top of the tooth to access the pulp chamber and root canals.

**Cleaning:** The infected or damaged pulp is removed from the tooth's interior, and the canals are cleaned and shaped to prepare for filling.

**Filling:** The canals are filled with a biocompatible material called gutta-percha to seal them and prevent further infection.

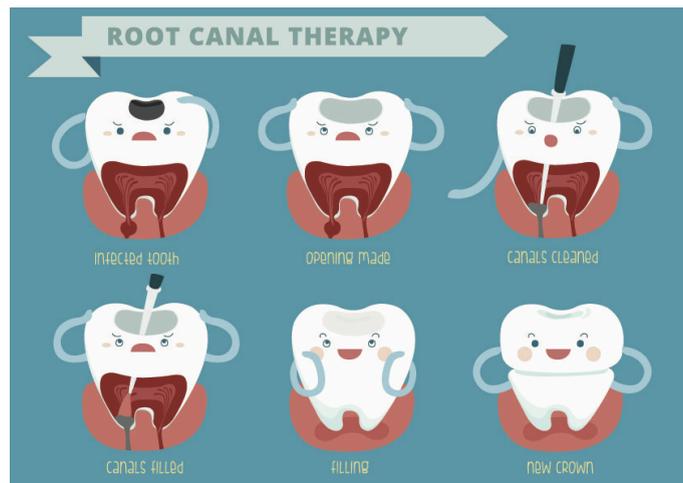
**Restoration:** After the root canal, your dentist may place a temporary filling or crown to restore the tooth's shape and function.

#### WHAT HAPPENS WHEN MY ROOT CANAL IS COMPLETED?

- You may experience mild discomfort or sensitivity for a few days following the procedure, which can be managed with over-the-counter pain medication.
- You will need to practice good oral hygiene by brushing and flossing regularly to maintain the health of the treated tooth.
- It is important to attend follow-up appointments as recommended by your dentist to monitor the healing process.

#### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF ROOT CANAL TREATMENT?

- Relieves pain and discomfort caused by tooth infection or damage.
- Saves the natural tooth, preventing the need for extraction.
- Restores normal chewing and biting function.
- Helps maintain overall oral health and prevents further complications.



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