



WHY HAVE I BEEN REFERRED

ROOT CANAL THERAPY

So you have been told by your dentist that you need root canal therapy but not sure what this is or why you need it. Here is a small guide to all those questions.

Why have you been referred

Sometimes to get the best result with a root canal, an endodontist or dentist with special interests are needed. Each time a tooth is root treated the success rate drops significantly and to save the tooth, an referral is the tooth's best chance.

Complex Root Canal Cases

- Curved or multiple canals
- Persistent infection
- Significant tooth damage

Traumatic Dental Injuries

- Cracked or dislodged teeth
- Knocked-out teeth

Re-treatment of Previous Root Canal Treatments

Why save a tooth

- Preserves natural function
- Maintains jaw structure
- Prevents complications like tipping or over erupted teeth
- Prevents further damage of remaining teeth like breakages from extra work load

- Cost effective

What is root canal therapy

Your teeth have 'roots' that anchor them into your jawbone. Inside each of your teeth there is a mixture of blood vessels and nerves called pulp. Pulp sits inside a space called the pulp chamber and this extends down into the roots of the tooth. The pulp chamber within the root is called the root canal.

Why do I need root canal treatment

If your tooth is damaged, bacteria can get inside it. This causes irritation, pain and swelling and infection.

The aim of root canal treatment is to prevent the tooth from being extracted (save the tooth) by removing the damaged pulp and treating the infection.

You may need root canal treatment for a number of reasons, including:

- Severe tooth decay
- Repeated dental treatment on the tooth
- A cracked tooth
- A broken crown
- Cracked or loose fillings
- Gum disease
- An injury, such as a blow to your mouth

If the infection isn't treated, it can spread further and cause an abscess, which is a collection of pus. This can be painful, tender and can cause swelling around your tooth and jaw and eventually tooth loss.

Sometimes your tooth may look darker in colour than your other teeth, which means that the nerve inside your tooth is dead or dying.

Here's a more detailed look at the root canal process

Assessment and Diagnosis:

X-rays: Dental X-rays are taken to assess the extent of the infection and damage to the tooth and surrounding bone.

Local anaesthesia: The area around the tooth is numbed with a local anaesthetic to ensure patient comfort during the procedure.

Dental dam: A thin rubber sheet called a dental dam is placed around the tooth to isolate it and keep the area clean, preventing contamination.

Pulp removal and canal preparation:

Access: An opening is created through the tooth's crown to access the pulp chamber.

Pulp removal: The infected or damaged pulp tissue is carefully removed using specialized instruments.

Cleaning and shaping: The canals are cleaned and shaped using small instruments and irrigation solutions to remove remaining debris and bacteria, according to Ten Dental.

Filling and sealing: Filling Material:

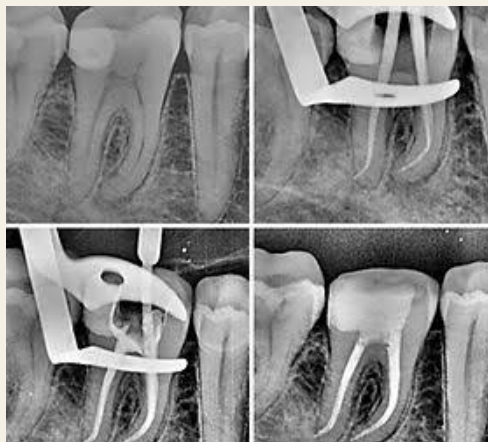
The cleaned and shaped canals are filled with a biocompatible material, often gutta-percha, and sealed to prevent re-infection.

Temporary filling: In some cases, a temporary filling may be placed to close the opening until the tooth can be restored with a crown.

Final restoration: The tooth is then restored with a crown to protect it from further damage and ensure its functionality.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact our treatment coordinator.

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Cranfield Dental Care

Helping you look after your teeth and gums, every day.

Contact our Reception team 01462 434323 for general enquiries, or speak to our **Treatment Coordinator (TCO)** 07714117790 for advice and information about your treatment options.

We're here to help you understand what's available and find the right next step for you.