

FACTS ABOUT ROOT CANAL TREATMENT

Root canal treatment treats infections of the nerve or pulp of a tooth, allowing a patient to save the tooth versus extract or remove the tooth.

The most common factors that contribute to the need for root canal treatment are:

- trauma, such as a physical blow to a tooth.
- physical irritation, such as deep decay or a deep filling.
- advanced gum disease.

The nerve becomes irritated and infected (pulpitis) as a result of bacterial growth within the pulp, causing pressure and temperature sensitivity of the tooth. With severe infections, swelling of the gums and face can occur and an abscess develops, surrounding the root of the tooth. Root canal treatment is an internal treatment, that removes the diseased nerve (pulp) of the tooth, enlarging, shaping and cleaning out the pulp chamber or canal. After the pulp chamber is thoroughly cleaned, a special type of filling material is placed in the canal and initially a temporary filling is placed in the tooth. Teeth that have had a root canal, tend to become brittle and often discolor over time, therefore it is recommended that a post build-up and a crown be placed on the tooth to properly restore the tooth to healthy function.