



Root Canal Treatment

This is your consent form for root canal treatment. Please read it carefully and ONLY sign below if you understand and are happy to proceed with the treatment.

Why do I need root canal treatment?

Root canal treatment is a COMPLEX dental procedure aimed at attempting to save/salvage a tooth. Root canal treatment may be indicated when:

- The living part of the tooth (the pulp/nerve) is irreversible inflamed.
- The tooth has an infection
- There is damage to the tooth as a result of trauma (tooth being bumped).
- As elective or chosen procedure which may be part of a bigger treatment plan.

What if I do nothing?

If the problem tooth is left untreated, it can cause severe pain and infection in the future. That may require the need for URGENT medical treatment.

What are the alternatives?

The ONLY alternative treatment for the tooth is a dental extraction (taking the problem tooth out). There are a few options available for replacing missing teeth and filling the gaps, these include:

- Leaving the space open (the most hygienic option).
- A removable denture.
- A dental implant (this option is only available privately by trained implant specialists).
- A bridge (this option is only possible in a limited number of situations).

What are my options for root canal treatment?

Root canal treatment is a complex dental procedure. There are specialists available that can complete this treatment for you. They only offer their services privately and the fees/charges for the treatment can vary between specialists. Root canal treatment success rates are higher when completed by a specialist. If you would like to have your treatment completed by a specialist, then let your dentist know so they can arrange a referral.

What is involved in root canal treatment?

Treatment is completed under local anaesthetic (The tooth is numbed up with an injection), access is gained to the inner part of the tooth (root canal system). Once all the root canals are visibly located, they are cleaned and prepared with special endodontic files all the way down to as close to the root ends/tips as possible. The canals are then disinfected before they are filled with a special rubber-based root filling material. Often X-rays are needed throughout the procedure. The treatment may need to be completed over two or more appointments depending on the complexity and/or if a long-standing infection has been present.

What happens after the treatment?

During the treatment or immediately after treatment, you may experience one or more of the following problems:

1. Pain and discomfort from the tooth when the anaesthetic wears off. This can normally be relieved with over-the-counter painkillers. Rarely, treatment can cause temporary spasms in the jaw muscles resulting in reduced ability to open your mouth. This usually only lasts a couple days but can sometimes last longer.

2. Some patients experience swelling on the side of the tooth or face which normally appears within the first 24 hours after treatment. This is a recognised side-effect of treatment. If this happens please contact your dental surgery.
3. Occasionally, one of the instruments used during the procedure may break off inside the tooth. If we are unable to remove the broken piece of instrument, it may still be possible to complete the treatment. If, however, this is not possible or it has been attempted without success, you may require other treatment at additional charges to you and/or a referral to a specialist.
4. Occasionally a perforation (hole) in the tooth or root may occur, this is where the endodontic files pass along the outside of the tooth rather than through the root canal. If this occurs, we might be able to repair the hole so that root canal treatment can be completed. If your dentist is unable to complete the repair, then the tooth will either need to be extraction (taking out) or a referral to a specialist to complete the treatment.

What are the limitations of treatment?

It is important that you understand that there are limitations to root canal treatment. Some of these include:

- 1) Being a living tissue, the insides of each tooth is very different. This can make some teeth a lot more difficult to treat than others and every root canal procedure unique. Sometimes there can be more roots and/or canals than expected, that we cannot always find. These unseen canals may harbour infection that can result in failure of the treatment. Your dentist will make every effort to locate all the canals and to prepare them fully.
- 2) Sometimes, rather than the canals being straight, they can branch into many smaller 'accessory' canals. Unfortunately, it is not always possible to prepare and clean these accessory canals and the longer an infection has been present, the greater the chance the treatment will fail.
- 3) Once the root canal treatment is completed, sometimes there is not enough tooth remaining to be able to fully restore it. In these situations, your dentist will recommend that you consider having the tooth taken out and not wasting your time with a root canal treatment.
- 4) Following root canal treatment, the tooth is weakened and is at increased risk of breaking. Depending on where the tooth breaks, it can result in the tooth needing to be extracted (taken out). For this reason, it is recommended that after treatment a crown or onlay is placed that wraps around the tooth holding it together. Reducing the risk of it breaking. This should be done as soon as possible following the treatment. However, sometimes your dentist may want to wait until they are sure the root canal treatment is stable before placing a permanent restoration. During this interim period, a filling can be placed in the tooth, however the tooth will still be at risk of breaking.

Estimated Fees:

Root canal treatment £620

Re root canal treatment £710

CBCT (3d Scan) with report £130

Investigation £138 (this will be charged if the tooth been deemed unsavable or further referral to specialist is required)

If you have any further questions regarding this treatment, then please speak to your dentist immediately.

Patient declaration

The root canal procedure has been explained to me fully and I have had the opportunity to consider all the risks and benefits of the treatment. I have read this consent form in my own time and I am happy to proceed with the planned treatment.

Signature:

Print name:

Date: