



ROOT CANAL TREATMENT

The goal of root canal treatment is to save a tooth that might otherwise require extraction. Although root canal treatment has a very high success rate, as with all medical and dental procedures, it is a procedure whose results cannot be guaranteed.

This procedure will not prevent future tooth decay, tooth fracture or gum disease. Occasionally a tooth that has had root canal treatment may unfortunately require re-treatment, root surgery, or tooth extraction; which may include a referral to the endodontist (root canal specialist).

Medical problems may occur if I do not have the root canal completed (further infection, cystic formation, swelling, pain, loss of tooth, and/or other systemic disease and infection).

Unlikely risks, but may occur	Extremely unlikely risks
Instrument separation in the canal	Perforations (extra openings) of the canal with instruments
Blocked root canals that cannot be ideally completed	Tooth/root fracture during treatment requiring extraction (unless treatment is significantly delayed)
Incomplete healing	Temporary or permanent numbness
Post-operative infection requiring additional treatment or the use of antibiotics	Transient change in bite or jaw joint difficulty with prolonged opening (TMD)
Fracture, chipping, or loosening of existing tooth or crown	Reaction to anaesthetics, chemicals or medications
Post-operative discomfort including pain, swelling, bruising, and flare up (3%)	

The following other treatment options might be possible:

1. Referral to an endodontist to perform the root canal treatment
2. No treatment at all
3. Waiting for more definitive development of symptoms
4. Extraction: To be replaced with either nothing, a denture, a bridge or an implant

After the completion of the root canal procedure, you will need to see your dentist again for the permanent restoration (filling, crown, cap). Failure to have the tooth properly restored in a timely manner (generally within 30 days) significantly increases the possibility of failure of the root canal procedure or tooth fracture.