

# Root canal therapy

**R**oot Canal Therapy or root canal treatment is basically the treatment we do on teeth with an infected or traumatized pulp.

The pulp cavity is the chamber in the inside of a tooth where the nerves and blood vessels are. Its typically below the first two major layers of a tooth, Enamel and dentine.

When a tooth is affected by a cavity or what u would call Caries or decay, the decay process goes through the different layers usually causing different symptoms according to the affected layer. For instance the patient will experience sensitivity to sweet and cold things when the cavity is in Dentine. as it goes deeper, u will then experience sensitivity to hot things....all of this pain typically lasting a few seconds. Up to this point, we consider our Pulp to be going through what we call Reversible Pulpitis (inflammation of the pulp). It means the pulp below dentine is typically reacting to the decay process but isn't yet affected so bad that if you take away the irritating factor, it definitely goes back to normal. At this point, our tooth can be successfully filled(cemented) and the patient will not feel pain again

Now the next level of damage is where our pulp is affected so bad (with or without the cavity reaching the pulp itself) , that even when you take away the irritating factor, the pulp is already damaged beyond repair. This is usually the point when the patient begins to experience Spontaneous pain( pain out of the blue). In other words you don't have to take something cold or hot for you to have a bad day. The patient might also experience what we call Night awakening pain, Pain that would need use of medicine or the patient will try to look for other remedies to pain.

At this point the patient begins to consider a solution to the pain which according to many in our resource limited setting will be an extraction!. THAT'S WHEN ROOT CANAL COMES IN TO SAVE THE DAYS.

## How is Root canal treatment done?

SO.....how is Root canal treatment done?, In simple terms. Your dentist will go in through the cavity, clean out the decay properly until he or she reaches the pulp chamber where he will use special instruments to remove these sick nerves, clean out very well, and close up for the next session (ROOT CANAL CAN BE done in a averagely 3 sessions) . All this done under Local anesthesia.....this answers the burning question....is there pain during the process? Essentially Root canal should be a painless process.

In the subsequent sessions.....more cleaning in their pulp chamber is done concluding with the dentist filling our tooth all the way from the Roots to the top of the tooth where the cavity was. This should be able to sort the pain and give that tooth a second chance.

SO Finally, does Root canal have any side effects? No....not any documented.

It's a safe procedure that should be used every time someone considers removing a tooth.

The biggest limitation is that its little more costly than a simple filling or an extraction effort that matter.

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