



# Root Canal Treatment

## An outline of the issues

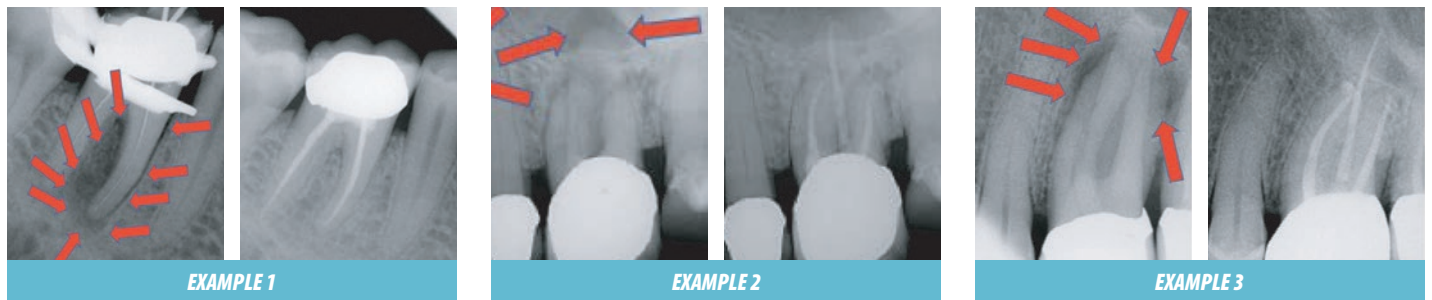
When a nerve is inflamed and then becomes infected it will eventually die. The infection spreads through the tooth to the surrounding bone. Bone is lost, replaced by more infected tissue. This shows up on an x-ray as a shadow at the tip of the root.

In the vast majority of cases there is NO PAIN associated with the chronic infection. 3D x-rays are necessary to detect the infection and to establish the anatomy of a tooth, how many canals are present and their shape.

The infected tissue inside the tooth is removed, antiseptics are placed to penetrate through the tooth, canals are filled, a crown is placed to strengthen the tooth, the bone heals. An x-ray 12 months after treatment confirms either the regeneration of healthy bone or the persistence of the infection.

### SUCCESSFUL ROOT CANAL TREATMENT (RCT)

Before (arrows indicate infection and bone loss) and after 12 months (bone has regenerated)



### ✓ FOR: ROOT CANALS ARE SAFE PROVIDED THEY ARE DONE WELL

Not all root canal treatments are the same. Root canal treatment is technically challenging BUT the measure of success is the regeneration of healthy bone indicating that the infection has resolved and the immune system is working well.

Bacteria exists throughout the mouth, in the gum crevice and periodontal pockets. A healthy immune system together with a nutrient-dense diet, excellent oral hygiene and regular dental checks ensure good oral health is maintained.

### ✗ AGAINST: ROOT CANALS HARM YOUR HEALTH

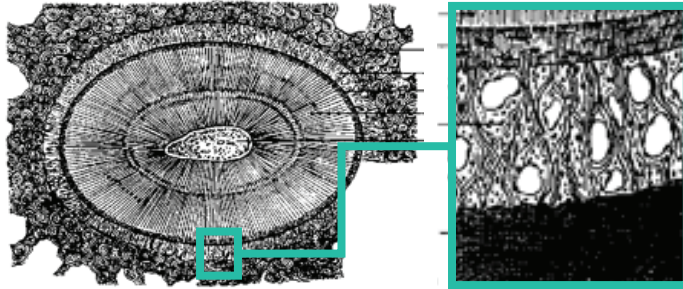
No matter how well a root canal treatment is done there is always some residual bacteria and toxins left within the tooth and this poses a challenge to the immune system. Extraction of the tooth and thoroughly curetting the infected bone is the best option.

### OUR POLICY

We consider each patient's situation individually, taking into account the general health status and reviewing that at each ckeck up visit.

## THE CHALLENGES TO A SUCCESSFUL ROOT CANAL TREATMENT

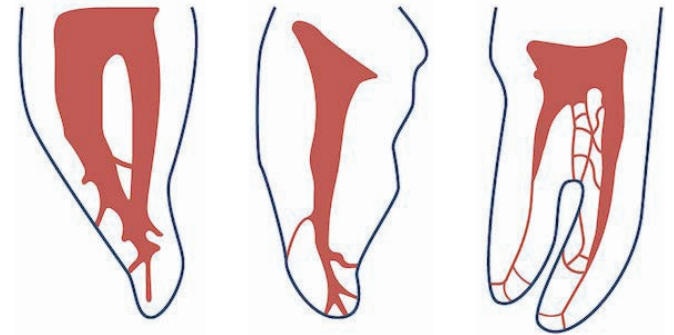
### The microscopic structure of the dentine



Horizontal section through root of incisor and supporting structures

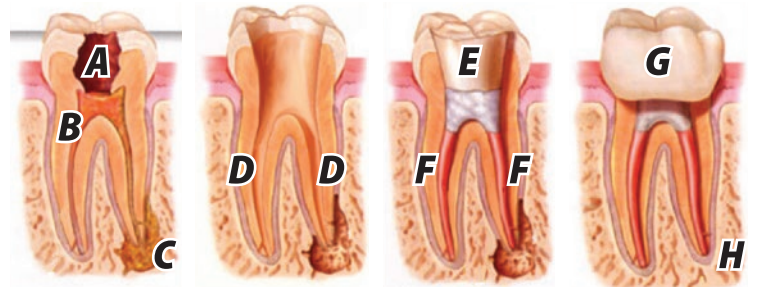
Peridontal membrane

### The anatomy of a root canal



## THE STEPS TO A SUCCESSFUL ROOT CANAL TREATMENT

- 1 | The infected or inflamed tissue is cleaned out
- 2 | The canals are enlarged
- 3 | Antiseptics are used to penetrate throughout the tooth
- 4 | Bone heals and regenerates
- 5 | A crown is placed



A: Deep Cavity | B: Infected Nerve | C: Bone Infection | D: Root Canal Space Cleaned & Shaped | E: Temporary Filling | F: Root Canal Space Filled | G: Crown | H: Bone Healed

**Extraction and curettage is the alternative to root canal treatment (RCT).**

Then the tooth/teeth need to be replaced.

## THERE ARE SEVERAL ALTERNATIVES TO REPLACE THE MISSING TOOTH



### Implants

- A titanium implant is placed into the jawbone, and an abutment and a crown placed over the implant.
- We need to be sure there is no metal sensitivity.



### Fixed Bridgework

- Involves crowning teeth on either side of the missing tooth.
- Increases risk of periodontal disease.
- There is always the possibility of the nerve in a supporting tooth dying.



### Removable Denture

- These need to be removed and cleaned after every meal and increases risk of periodontal disease.
- Increase wear and tear on adjacent teeth and gums that support the denture.

## OUR APPROACH

- As with any potential dental treatment, **we need to look at your general health and oral health as a whole.**
- We can then determine **the most appropriate course of action in consultation with you.**