

## Outline of the Root Canal Treatment procedure.

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When the pulp of a tooth is damaged or infected, a Root Canal Treatment (endodontic treatment) may be needed to replace the damaged pulp with a filling. If left untreated pus can form and build up at the tip of the root, in the jaw bone, thus forming an abscess, this abscess can destroy the surrounding bone, causing pain. If the patient does not want to undergo root canal treatment or the tooth is not worth saving, the other option is extraction of the tooth (pulling the tooth out).

Root canal treatment can take a couple of sessions at the practice on different days, depending on the complexity of the condition. A basic outline of the procedure is shown below and it may differ depending on the case;

- First, an opening is made through the crown of the tooth.
- An opening is made through the crown of the tooth into the pulp chamber.
- The pulp is then removed. The root canal(s) is cleaned and shaped to a form that can be filled.
- The pulp is removed, and the root canals are cleaned, enlarged and shaped
- Medications may be put in the pulp chamber and root canal(s) to help get rid of germs and prevent infection.
- A temporary filling will be placed in the crown opening to protect the tooth between dental visits. Your dentist may leave the tooth open for a few days to drain. You might also be given medicine to help control infection that may have spread beyond the tooth.
- The pulp chamber and root canals are filled and sealed.
- The temporary filling is removed and the pulp chamber and root canal(s) are cleaned and filled.
- In the final step, a gold or porcelain crown is usually placed over the tooth. If an endodontist performs the treatment, he or she will recommend that you return to your family dentist for this final step.
- The crown of the tooth is then restored.
- The restored tooth can remain healthy as long as its roots are nourished by the surrounding tissues. Good oral hygiene at home and regular dental visits can help prevent tooth decay and gum disease. If you take good care of it, the restored tooth could last a lifetime.

*Your dentist can give you more detailed information and explain you which method is more suitable in your case and which one is indicated for your teeth.*

If specialist care is needed, your dentist will discuss this with you. Our Dentists work closely with specialist dentists in Canberra and can If you would like a specialist opinion, ask your dentist for a referral to an endodontist in Canberra or in your area.