

ENDODONTIC (ROOT CANAL) THERAPY:

Root canal therapy consists of the cleansing, shaping and filling of the root canal system to promote healing and repair around the roots of the tooth. The root canal is the space inside the tooth, which, in health, is occupied by the dental pulp. The main causes for root canal therapy are decay, deep restorations, or trauma that causes injury or death to the tissue inside the root canal space. These conditions often cause pain, which may be relieved with endodontic therapy.

Root canal therapy removes the canal contents that have become a source of irritation to the bone and ligament which support the tooth in the jaw. This is accomplished by cleaning and shaping the root canal system of the tooth. The root canal is then filled with a special material that seals it. In some cases root canal therapy may be performed on healthy teeth in order to facilitate other dental treatment.

The following are potential adverse conditions associated with endodontic treatment of a diseased tooth:

- pain or discomfort from the tooth lasting several days
- swelling of the gum area around the tooth or facial swelling that may last for several days.
- Infection, which may require antibiotic medication or surgical drainage.
- Jaw joint pain or limited opening due to length of the procedure.
- Instrument breakage in the tooth or damage to the tooth in the course of treatment. Additional treatment, root surgery or extraction might become necessary.

While the majority of root canal treatment is successful, a small percentage is not. This could lead to surgical or non-surgical re-treatment or extraction.

IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT A TOOTH THAT HAS BEEN TREATED WITH ROOT CANAL THERAPY BE RESTORED ADEQUATELY. THIS IS USUALLY DONE WITH A CROWN OR OTHER SUITABLE FILLING. Please ask if you have questions as to the type of restoration recommended following your root canal therapy.