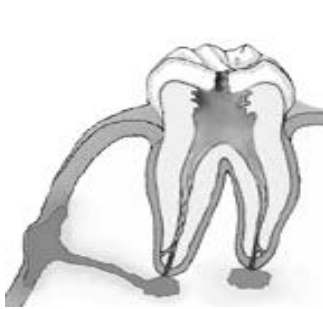
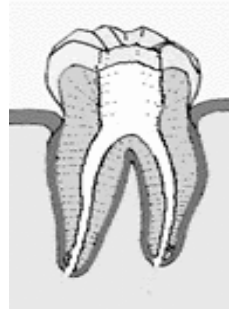


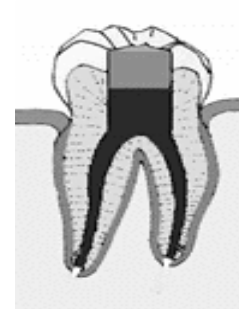
## ROOT CANAL TREATMENT



*For many reasons teeth can die and the insides of them become infected resulting in pain, discolouration or the infection causing a swelling.*



*The dead tissue is removed from inside the tooth and roots with fine instruments are rinsed out with antiseptic wash*



*The cleaned and disinfected roots are filled and a normal filling or crown put on the top of the tooth.*

This type of treatment is usually carried out with the tooth poking through a hole in a protective rubber sheet called a rubber dam and often requires local anaesthetic. In the vast majority of cases, the treatment is entirely painless. There is occasionally some discomfort after the treatment, but this is usually controllable with simple painkillers and settles down after a few days.

Some teeth have two or three or more roots making treatment much more complicated, and it may take several appointments to settle an infection down and complete treatment. Not all cases of infection can be controlled and the tooth may need surgical treatment from a specialist (apicectomy) or possible extraction.

### **The common risks of Root Canal Treatment:**

Although all practical steps are taken to minimise possible risks, as with all treatment there are risks:

- Root treated teeth have a higher risk of breaking or fracturing, especially if they are heavily filled. In these cases we would suggest a crown for your tooth to prevent this. Sometimes this may be delayed until we are confident the root treatment has succeeded.
- Occasionally front teeth can noticeably discolour, usually to a grey shade
- Despite our best efforts, during root treatment there is a risk that instruments in the canal may fracture or we may accidentally perforate your tooth (this is where a bur has cut outside the tooth into the gum) or we may not be able to locate all of the canals
- During root treatment existing fillings and crowns may be damaged gaining access to canals
- Although your tooth may not be sore before treatment there is occasionally some discomfort after the treatment. This can be due to debris from the tooth going out of the root tip as we clean and disinfect the tooth. This risk is greater if your tooth is heavily infected to begin with.



- The antiseptic wash used to clean the tooth may go through the tip of the root resulting in possible discomfort and pain – this is increased if the tip of the root is not fully developed or open or there is a root fracture present

### **Prognosis:**

In the vast majority of cases the treatment is successful and the tooth can give many more years of service. However, although root canal therapy has a very high degree of success, results cannot be guaranteed. A number of factors can reduce our chances of success, including how long the tooth has been infected and how severe the infection is.

If the infection recurs, there are a number of further options including:

- Redoing the root filling
- A small surgical procedure, called an apicectomy, to remove the infection
- Referral to an advanced specialist
- Extraction of the tooth.

### **Alternative options**

1. Due to the extreme complex nature of your treatment you may require a referral to an advanced specialist in this field
2. Extraction leading to a gap or further work to replace the tooth such as a bridge, implant or denture.
3. Refusing treatment but this will result in a high risk of further pain and infection from this tooth

