

REFERRAL TO SPECIALIST?

The main reason we may refer you to a root canal therapy specialist (an endodontist) is the access to the canals is difficult. Canals can be curved or very narrow. An Endodontist has specialist training and equipment which allows the procedure to be completed efficiently and correctly.

AFTER TREATMENT

Once root canal treatment is completed, your dentist may recommend a permanent restoration. This will ensure the risk of further damage to the tooth will be minimised.

For further information or to book an appointment time, please see one of our friendly reception staff.

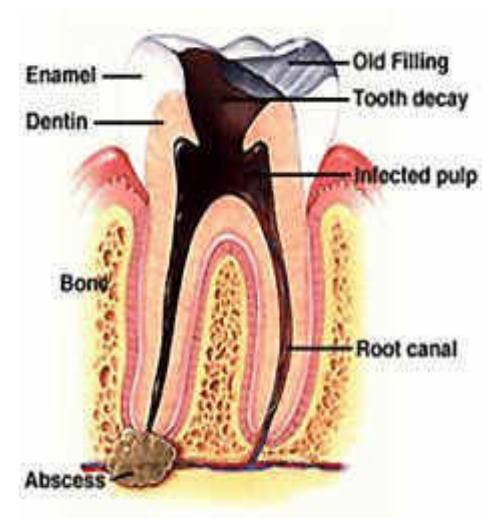
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MORANBAH DENTAL

Information on Root Canal Therapy



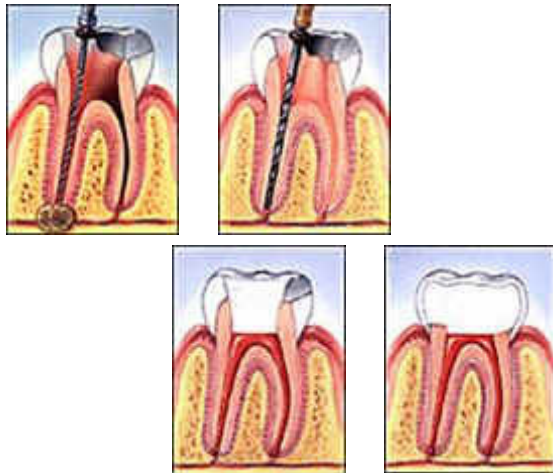
WHAT IS ROOT CANAL TREATMENT?

A root canal is a procedure done to save the damaged tooth by cleaning out the diseased pulp and reshaping and filling the root canals. If treatment is not done pain and infection usually result.

WHAT IS THE PROCEDURE?

The tooth is anesthetized and an small opening is made on the top of the tooth which allows the dentist access to the pulp/nerve.

The length of the roots are determined and the pulp is removed. The root canals are cleaned out with special instruments and enlarged so that a special filling material can be placed inside the roots where the nerve used to be. This seals the tooth to help prevent re-infection. A crown is usually placed on the tooth following a root canal procedure to prevent the tooth from fracturing.



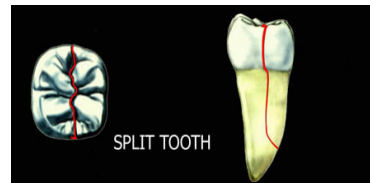
WHY DO I FEEL PAIN?

When the pulp becomes infected it allows bacteria to seep in. Damaged or dead pulp causes increased blood flow and cellular activity, and pressure builds up in the tooth and surrounding bone. Pain in the tooth is commonly felt when biting down, chewing on it and applying hot or cold foods and drinks.

WHAT CAUSES THE PULP/ NERVE TO DIE ?

Root canal therapy is commonly needed because of deep decay to the tooth. This allows bacteria to reach the pulp which becomes inflamed and infected. If the infection becomes very bad – an abscess could result and this may cause pain and swelling.

Other causes are a traumatic blow to the teeth (accident/ fall), leakage around old or loose fillings, cracked or split teeth and excessive wear of the teeth.



IS THERE

AN ALTERNATIVE?

Because the tooth will not heal by itself. Without treatment, the infection will spread, bone around the tooth will begin to degenerate, and the tooth may become loose. Pain usually worsens until you are forced to seek

emergency dental attention.

The only alternative is usually extraction of the tooth, which can cause surrounding teeth to shift crookedly, resulting in a bad bite.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Pain + Discomfort

The tooth may be tender for a few days after treatment. This should settle but pain-killers may be required. If it doesn't settle or worsens a further dressing may be required.

Weakness

A root treated tooth will not be as strong as a normal tooth—this is why a crown is usually recommended for back teeth (molars).

Infection / re treatment

Infection in the damaged tooth is likely to resolve completely once treatment is undertaken—the risk of re-infection is low, however if infection occurs again the tooth may need to be re treated or extracted.

Reinfection is usually caused by oral bacteria re-entering the root canals via further decay, leaking fillings or cracks. It is important to have regular dental check ups.

File Fracture

High quality metal files are used. These instruments are very flexible and fine and occasionally may break during treatment. Special procedures may be needed to remove these files if possible or the fractured piece may be incorporated into the final root filling.