

# Root Canal Treatment (RCT or Endodontics)

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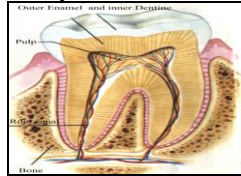
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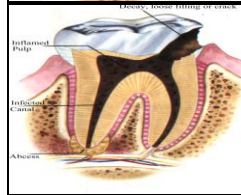
## Information and Informed Consent\*: Empower You To Make Informed Decision

Extraction is not the only solution to toothache, **if the root is still firm**, your dentist may suggest root canal treatment to save your tooth. Before explaining root canal treatment, we will first introduce the different between healthy and broken tooth.



### (A) HEALTHY TOOTH

A healthy tooth will have a crown and one or more root. The root will help to stabilize the tooth in dental bone. In the center of the tooth is the pulp, which contains nerve and blood vessel.



### (B) INFECTED TOOTH

If a tooth is broken, its pulp may be infected or damaged. The major cause is caries or deeply filled, external injury or pulp disease. Inflamed pulp may be painful during touch or biting, in more severe case the throbbing pain may disturb sleep.

If there is no treatment, the pulp may produce pus and the bone surrounding the tooth may be resorbed. The bone may become swollen and discharge pus. The non-vital tooth may discolor. Adjacent teeth may be affected as well.

### WHAT IS ROOT CANAL TREATMENT?

Root canal treatment is treatment that removes infection or damage pulp from the broken tooth. Then the empty core will be cleaned, filled and sealed.

### WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF ROOT CANAL TREATMENT?

Root canal treatment can prevent extraction and preserve the tooth. It also maintains the natural teeth arrangement. Although the pulp is removed, but the root is still located firmly in the bone and functioned normally.

Even if you are wearing denture, screw or magnet can be added to the root canal and enhance the stability of the denture. This gives more option to you.

Root canal treatment is not extraction, therefore there will be no wound and may not even require injection. It is safer compare to extraction and if the patient is not healthy (for example heart or blood disease), and not suitable for extraction, he can also choose root canal treatment.

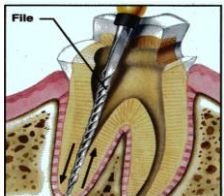
### What is the option of treatment other than root canal treatment?

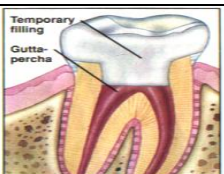
If root canal treatment is not chosen, you can opt to extract the tooth. After extraction, denture, bridge or implant may be needed to replace the missing tooth. If not, adjacent tooth may shift, causing difficulty of chewing and cleaning. These problems may cause caries or gum disease.

Extraction may not be difficult, but to build back the tooth that is similar to natural tooth (stable, comfortable) is not easy.

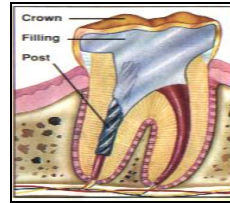
### What are the procedures of root canal treatment?

1. A hole is drilled and the crown is cleaned from debris.

2.  Remove the soft pulp or pus from the canal and clean it. Use X-ray/radiograph to measure the length of the tooth. Insert the sterile/disinfective medication and the hole filled TEMPORARY. The temporary cement may sink or chipped off.

3.  After a few days if there is no swelling: Special medicated sealer materials (Gutha Percha or thermoplastic) is used to seal the root canal. Use permanent filling material to fill the hole on the crown.

4.



Long term maintenance: Usually, the root canal treated tooth is weakened even before the treatment, therefore, it is best to screw and/or crown the tooth to strengthen protect weakened tooth.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

#### 1. Does tooth that undergo root canal treatment need filling?

Yes. Due to loss of pulp after root canal treatment, the water content of the tooth will be reduced, which in causing the tooth to be fragile and brittle. Therefore, the best solution is to do crowning after root canal treatment to prevent tooth breakage.

#### 2. How long can it last? Will it fail in future?

No. Root canal treated tooth is still your natural tooth, and if any natural tooth that is not taken care can broken. If the gum/bone is not taken care, the root may become unstable and your dentist may suggest extraction for your tooth.

#### 3. Will it be painless forever? Can tooth become "dead"?

If the crown of the root canal treated tooth breaks, it will not cause any pain and if the root is still firm, it can still be restored. The root canal treated tooth will not feel any sensitivity, but after root canal treatment, the gum is still alive. The blood vessel in the gum still provide nutrient to the tooth, the gum can also help to stable the tooth in the bone. The tooth can still feel while biting bone.

#### 4. How many times for the treatment?

Root canal treatment requires two to three visits. If the root canal treatment is terminated before sealing, the tooth may be re-infected. Therefore, please cooperate with your dentist to complete the root canal treatment.

#### 5.)What is the limitations, risks or possible adverse outcome of RCT?

Blocked, narrow or very curve canal may cause incomplete instrumentation. This may be due to calcified canals that may cause fracture of instrument tip in the canal, which may or may not be removed or bypassed. Big bone defect or cyst may not healed by RCT alone. Continuous pus discharge may need surgical cleaning at the root tip area at an additional cost.

### COST

Cost depends on the difficulty, the front (incisors) and middle tooth (pre-molar) is cheaper than the back tooth (molar). The fees can be paid in 2 installments. (Estimated price:RM800 per canal.Molar teeth more difficult may have 3 canal or more, but maximum 3 canals will be charged. Please kindly confirm with the attending doctor.)

Medication, X-ray film (normally require one to two), and the final filing of the tooth will be charged separately.

If you choose special root canal filling material such as Thermafil/Onestop, extra screw, crown/bridge, extra charge is required. NEW Instruments (Protaper files) exclusive for personal use: Add RM80++ (per set of 6) .

### ROOT CANAL TREATMENT OR IMPLANT

Sometimes the root is too short or weakened until a crown on top of the tooth will not be secured or you may need braces to make the root longer, it may not be justified because of the higher cost, poor prognosis/future or the root. In these circumstances, you may consider to extract the root and replace it with an implant.

### CONCLUSION

After root canal treatment, the tooth will be more brittle than normal tooth. However, suitable diet, maintenance and regular follow up every six months will help you to maintain the tooth for long time.

If you have any doubt about root canal treatment, please kindly enquire your dentist.

