

## Endodontic treatment



Endodontic treatment also known as Root Canal Treatment RCT, is a dental procedure used to treat infection at the center of a tooth.

It is not a painful treatment and can save a tooth that might otherwise have to be removed completely.

### Causes:

The infection at the center of a tooth (the root canal) is mainly caused by bacteria that live in the mouth and invade the tooth.

This can happen after:

- tooth decay
- leaky fillings
- damage to teeth as a result of trauma, such as a fall



### **Symptoms that show you need RCT:**

- Pain when eating or drinking hot or cold food and drink
- Pain when biting or chewing
- A loose tooth
- Swelling of the gum near the affected tooth
- Pus oozing from the affected tooth
- A swollen cheek or jaw
- The tooth becoming a darker in color

### **The treatment:**

The endodontist removes the infected pulp and nerve in the root of the tooth, cleans and shapes the inside of the root canal, then fills and seals the space. Afterward, the dentist will place a crown on the tooth to protect and restore it to its original function.

If you follow good dental and oral hygiene, your restored tooth could last a lifetime. The first few days after your root canal, the tooth may be sensitive. Nonprescription pain medications can help. If pain or pressure lasts more than a few days, be sure to talk to your dentist or endodontist.

