

# Endodontic Therapy (Root Canal)

You have a tooth with a diseased nerve in it and are in need of root canal therapy. The following information will help you to understand the procedure.

Inside of all normal teeth is a cavity containing nerves, blood vessels, and live soft tissue. It is called the dental pulp. Occasionally the pulp tissue is abused by trauma, deep decay, large fillings, crowns, or other factors, and the pulp tissue becomes necrotic (dead). Usually, pulp death results in pain and bone destruction visible on dental x-rays.

Treating a necrotic (dead) pulp is a delicate procedure requiring the following steps.

1. A small hole is made in the tooth to allow access to the dead pulp tissue.
2. Using a series of small files, the dead pulp tissue is removed from the internal of the tooth.
3. When the internal portion of the tooth is cleared of all debris and cleaned, this area is filled with a “rubber like” material to seal the void inside the tooth.
4. Most endodontically treated teeth will need a subsequent crown (cap) to strengthen the weakened tooth. Sometimes a supportive post or material is placed to add additional support for the crown.
5. It is normal to experience mild discomfort that may linger for a few weeks before the tooth feels back to normal.

Root canal therapy is about 95% effective in restoring the tooth back to normal function.

We expect that your tooth that will receive root canal therapy will heal to become a healthy, strong, non-painful part of your dentition.

As always, if you have any concerns, please don't hesitate to call our office at (517)351-1733.

Mashni Dentistry Team