

MATTERSON BILTCLIFFE VARLEY AND TUZIO – DENTAL SURGEONS

Root Canal Treatment (Endodontic therapy)

What is the purpose of root canal treatment?

Root canal treatment is performed when the nerve inside the tooth has died. This may cause discomfort or become infected and may cause an abscess and swelling. Root canal treatment cleans the nerve away to prevent further infection or loss of the tooth altogether.

How does my tooth become damaged?

Your tooth may become damaged if tooth decay is left untreated; you have severe gum disease or have sustained an injury.

What will happen if my tooth is left untreated?

If your tooth is left untreated it could form into an abscess which may then expand within the bone and cause swelling of the face. This would lead to tooth ache and the possibility of losing the tooth altogether.

What are the indications for RCT?

Your symptoms may be persistent toothache, tenderness in the gums, swelling or your tooth darkening due to trauma. When you see your dentist the tell tale signs are; x-rays that reveal a dark spot or exposure of the nerve during another dental treatment.

How is RCT carried out?

RCT is usually carried out over two appointments;

Appointment one:

- The area needing treatment will be numbed with anaesthetic.
- The pulp area is accessed
- X-rays are then taken to evaluate the depth of the canals
- Your dentist will then clean the canals and wash them
- X-rays are taken again to determine that the canals have been cleaned out thoroughly
- An antiseptic dressing is then applied
- Your dentist will then put a temporary filling in the tooth

Appointment two:

- The area being treated will be numbed up again
- The temporary filling will be removed
- The root canals will be filled with Gutta-percha (a filling material)
- X-rays will then be taken again to ensure that the canal is full
- The tooth will then be permanently filled.

Aftercare

Your tooth may feel slightly tender for a few days after treatment, consult your dentist if the problem persists.

Other things you can do after treatment to ensure the best results are;

- Clean your teeth twice daily using a fluoride toothpaste
- Clean between your teeth using floss or interdental brushes
- Avoid chewing or biting down on the tooth until the treatment is complete
- Reduce your intake of sugary foods

