

Root Canal Treatment

Inside your tooth's hard outer shell is a nourishing pulp of blood vessels, lymph vessels and nerves. The root canals, which contain the pulp, extend to the bone. Deep tooth decay, or an injury, can cause serious damage and infection to the pulp's nerves and vessels. Root canal, or endodontic, treatment cleans out the infected pulp chamber and repairs the damage. Some indications of the need for root canal treatment may be:

- Spontaneous pain or throbbing while biting
- Sensitivity to hot and cold foods
- Severe decay or an injury that creates an infection in the bone

After the tooth is anesthetized, an opening is made through the crown into the pulp chamber. The length of the root canals is determined. The unhealthy pulp is removed. The canals are cleaned, enlarged and shaped. Canals are filled and sealed. A metal post may be added for structural support or to retain restorative materials, the tooth is restored with a gold or porcelain crown which adds further protection.

