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What is RCT?

Root canal treatment is Cleaning, shaping and Filling the root canal of the tooth.

When a RCT is to be done on a tooth?

A Root Canal Treatment is needed when a tooth's pulp containing nerve and associated blood vessels are irreversibly damaged. For example:

- Deep cavities that has infected the pulp

- A Fractured tooth involving the pulp (innermost layer of teeth)

Teeth that are severely worn out

Discoloured tooth with a history of trauma

Base of the tooth: the above causes is the same - an infection that leads to an abcess at the

How we will know that we require RCT?

You may have one or more of the following symptoms …

- Throbbing pain in the tooth (especially noticeable when lying horizontal, i.e. in bed at night).
- Continuous Pain / severe sensitivity on consuming hot and / or cold foods.
- The tooth may be painful to chew on.
- There may also be a swelling in your jaw.

Can a filled tooth develop pulp infection?

Bacteria can invade your tooth through loose or a broken filling, a cavity or a crack and eventually the pulp gets infected. At this stage there may or may not be any symptoms. A Root Canal Treatment would usually save this tooth. If left untreated, the infection may even spread to your bone. As the infection spreads, bone around the teeth will degenerate and a tooth abscess may form. So, a regular dental check up with Radiographs (X-rays) can identify a tooth with root canal infection at an early stage prior to any symptoms.

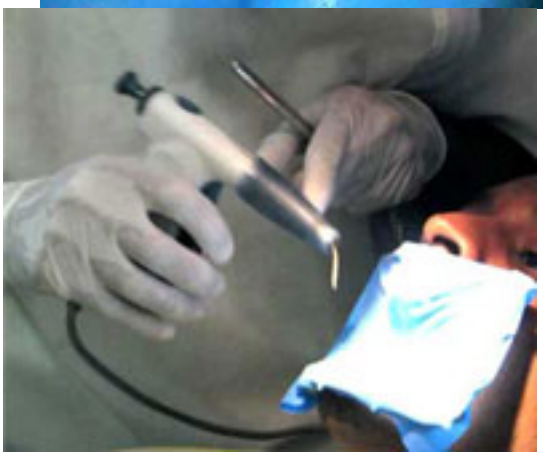
How is RCT performed?

- The tooth and the surrounding gums are anesthetized. Cartridge anesthesia with a very fine needle is used in our clinic, so that it is almost painless.

Catridge local anesthesia

- A **Rubberdam** is placed around the tooth to be root canal treated, so that there is more comfort and safety for the patient. As the tooth getting treated is alone exposed out, any medications used on the tooth does not enter the mouth.
-

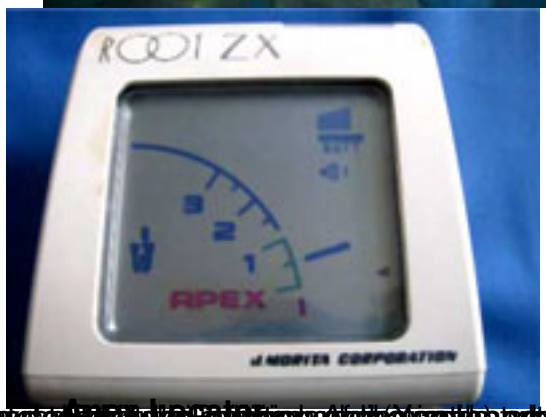
An opening is made through the crown into the pulp chamber. Rubberdam



Access Opening **Comfortable patient with rubberdam**

- Unhealthy pulp is removed. The length of the root canal is determined with the help of Electronic Apex locators as well as radiographs. The canals are then cleaned, enlarged and shaped with special caliberated instruments and disinfecting solutions.

Caliberated Instruments



[illegible]

- A post may be added with the core for structural support.

Usually a metal or porcelain crown is made for the RC treated tooth to get the tooth back in function.

Who is an Endodontist?

A dentist who specializes in RCT with a MDS degree (Master of Dental Surgery) in Endodontics is an Endodontist. Because they are trained to handle complex Endodontic procedures in difficult cases, many dentist refer their Root canal patients to Endodontist.

What material is used to fill the root canal?

Gutta percha, a natural product from rubber trees is the material of choice. There are Various forms of gutta-percha used in our clinic. The selection and technique varies according to the shape, size and number of root canals.

GP points used to fill the Color coded gutta percha points

Flowable gutta percha in Tooth ready filling

Previous [illegible] root canal. As they corrode easily and their products are [illegible]

Silver points

What is post and core?

A core filling is done after every RCT procedure. It fills the prepared access space that is made during RCT. A core is done to strengthen the RC treated tooth before it receives a crown. At times, when the crown of RC treated tooth is badly broken down, a Post (Stainless steel, Titanium or Fibre) is inserted in one or more roots to hold the core filling material.

Post space preparation **Fibre post** **Core filling**

Metal Posts in 3 roots

Is RCT painful?

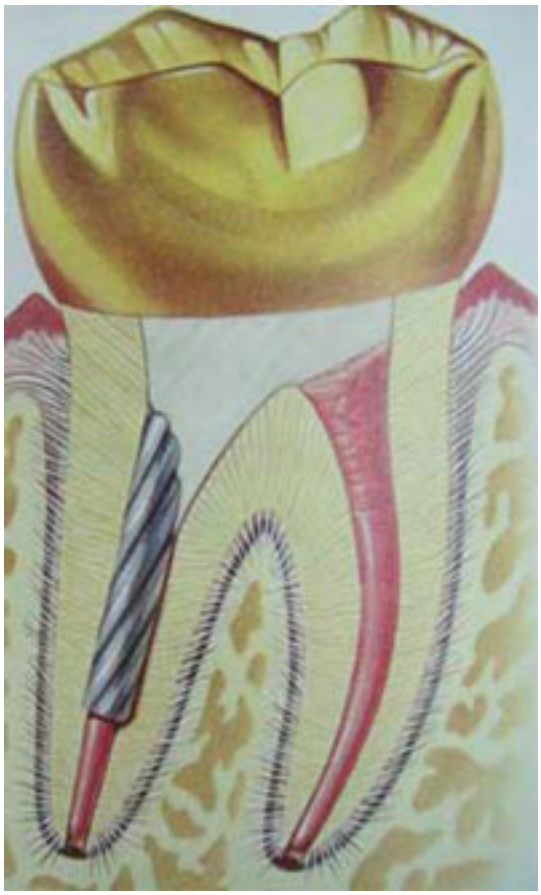
No. Its performed to relieve pain. It can be really painless than a filling under the latest technology and proper local anesthesia.

How many sittings will it take for RCT?

We specialize in single visit RCT, done in around an hour. But if the root canal is badly infected it might need two or more sittings.

Is a crown (cap) must after RCT?

After the inside of your teeth has been treated, the outside will be restored to protect your tooth's underlying structures and give your teeth a healthy appearance. After Root Canal Therapy your tooth should function and feel like your other teeth. If the crown is not made, there are more chances for the tooth to fracture. So crown is made as early as possible for root canal treated teeth. However, there are few exceptions, where only a filling will serve the function. The decision is made by the treating dentist.



Is there any other alternative to RCT?

The only alternative is removal of the tooth (extraction).

Why to conserve your tooth rather than extract it?

There are few problems that can arise when a tooth is removed.

There is a tendency for the remaining healthy teeth to drift into the space of the extracted teeth. This causes spaces between the teeth, which leads to food impaction, dental caries, malocclusion, joint problems, etc. There will be difficulty in chewing. Due to improper chewing, food stuffs take a longer time to digest. This causes acidity and other gastric problems At the missing teeth area the cheeks shrink inside, giving an older appearance to the face.

Difficulty in speech when the front teeth are lost.

Though an extraction is cheaper, an implant or bridge to replace the tooth can be more expensive than Root Canal Therapy. If you have a choice, it is always advisable to keep your original teeth. However, there are limitations, and at times a Root Canal Therapy might not be possible. Allow your Dentist to decide.

What is the success rate of Root canal treatment?

About 95% success rate, which is really excellent for any medical procedure today.

- The reasons for failure may be
- Severe gum infection with mobile tooth
- Poor immunity like in uncontrolled diabetics, auto immune diseases
- Poor maintenance
- Missing appointments during the treatment
- Delayed crowning of the tooth
- Treatment by inexperienced hands

Can a root canal treatment be redone (re – treatment)?

Yes, a failed RCT with pain again can be redone, but the number of sittings would be more than one. Improperly filled RC with infection - needs RE-RCT

Re-Improperly filled RC with infection - needs Re-RCT

[illegible] yourself free for 2 hours [illegible] the grade of pain is [illegible] have [illegible] see [illegible] problems that you cannot. After all, your teeth