

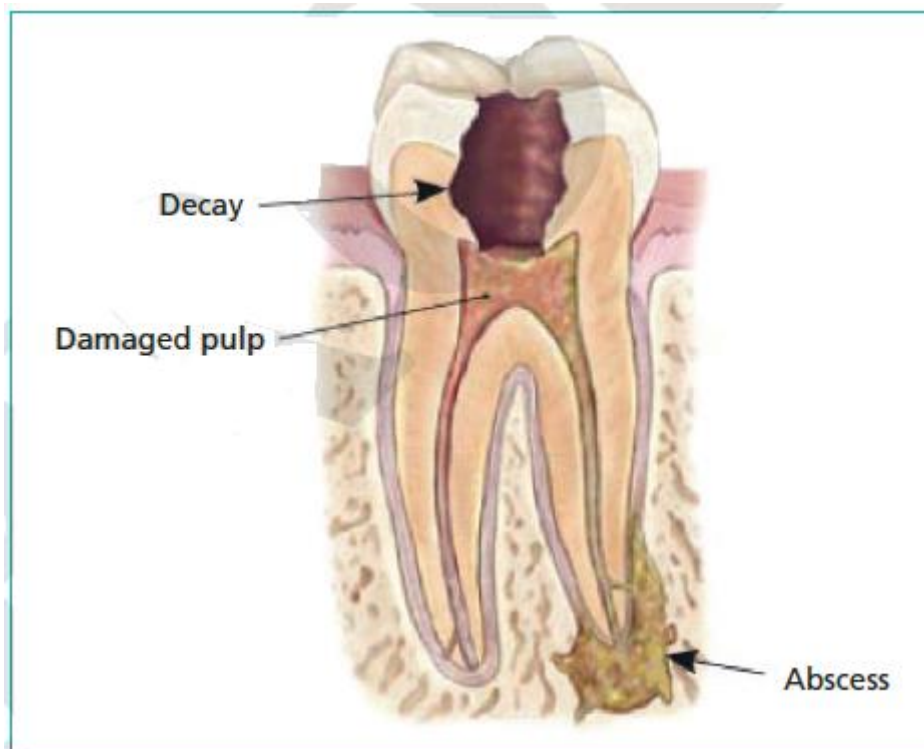
University Dental Hospital of Manchester
Department of Restorative Dentistry

Information for Patients

Endodontics (Root Canal Treatment)

Why would I need an endodontic procedure?

Endodontic treatment is necessary when the pulp (the soft tissue inside the root canal) becomes inflamed or infected. The inflammation or infection can be as result of a number of causes, such as: deep decay, repeated dental procedures on the tooth (for example a large filling or a crown) or a crack or chip in the tooth. In addition, an injury (such as a sporting injury) to a tooth may cause pulp damage even if the tooth has no visible chips or cracks. If pulp inflammation or infection is left untreated, it can cause pain or lead to an abscess.



What are the signs that a tooth requires endodontic treatment?

- Prolonged sensitivity to hot or cold stimuli
- Tenderness to touch and chewing

- Discolouration of the tooth
- Facial swelling as a result of infection from a tooth.

The swelling could also be localized and appear as a 'gum boil'. Sometimes there are no symptoms and your Dentist may notice changes on routine radiographs indicating the need for root canal treatment.

How does endodontic treatment save the tooth?

The Dentist removes the inflamed or infected pulp, carefully cleans and shapes the inside of the canal, then fills and seals the space. Afterwards you may need a large filling or a crown to protect the remaining tooth and restore it to full function. There is a risk of failure in 10-20% of cases.

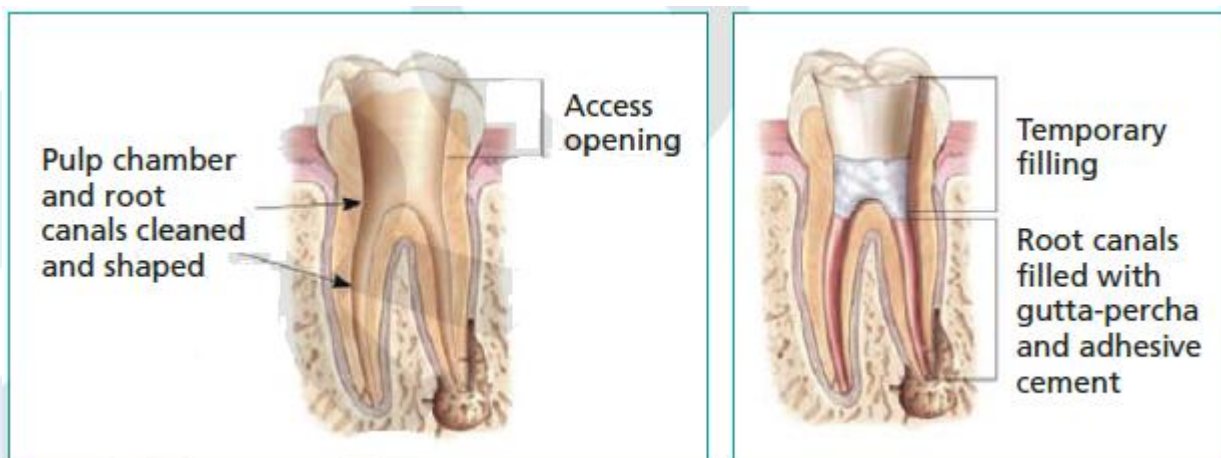
Will I feel pain during or after the procedure?

With modern techniques and anaesthetics, most patients report that they are comfortable during the procedure. For the first few days after treatment, your tooth may feel sensitive, especially if there was pain or infection before the procedure. This discomfort can be relieved with over-the-counter or prescription medications. Your tooth may continue to feel slightly different from your other teeth for some time after your endodontic treatment is completed. However, if you have severe pain or pain that lasts more than a few days, call your Dentist.

Endodontic procedure

Endodontic treatment can often be performed in one or two visits and generally involves the following steps:

1. The Dentist examines and takes a radiograph of the tooth
2. Local anaesthetic is administered
3. A protective sheet called a 'rubber dam' is used to isolate the tooth from saliva
4. The infected pulp is accessed by drilling the top of the tooth
5. Small instruments (files) are used to carefully clean and shape the canal system
6. The canal system is filled with a rubber like material called 'gutta-percha'



If you have any queries about the information contained within this leaflet or any other aspects about your treatment please do not hesitate to contact us:

- Restorative First Floor: 0161 393 7734
- Restorative Ground Floor: 0161 393 7735

Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm

For out of hours emergencies please contact your local Accident and Emergency Department.