



D R . L A U R A F O X
FAMILY DENTISTRY

Root Canal Treatment

Why do I need Root Canal Treatment?

The three most common reasons for needing root canal treatment are:

1. Deep decay
2. A cracked or broken tooth
3. Trauma

Deep Decay:

Inside every tooth there is a space, or canal, which contains the nerve tissue and blood supply for the tooth. When decay extends near that nerve tissue, it can cause symptoms of sensitivity to hot and cold, soreness when chewing, or a tooth ache. If the decay is untreated, it can lead to bacterial infection which causes a dental abscess. Even though you may not have any symptoms, when deep decay is detected, it is sometimes recommended to perform root canal treatment to prevent future pain and infection.

Cracked or Broken Teeth:

Sometimes when teeth break, they can be repaired with a simple filling. However, if the crack or fracture extends near or all the way to the nerve of the tooth, root canal treatment is then required. Sometimes, your dentist will need to perform root canal treatment to allow the placement of a post inside the root of the tooth to provide support for the restoration of that tooth.

Trauma:

When teeth undergo trauma, either from a fall or being hit in the mouth, they can sometimes require root canal treatment. This may not be required immediately after the accident, but sometimes over time, the nerve will become aggravated by the trauma that occurred and either the tooth will become sore or it may simply become non-vital (dead). When this occurs, root canal treatment is required so that infection does not develop.

What is involved in Root Canal Treatment?

Dr. Fox will start by removing any decay and areas of the tooth weakened by fracture. An opening is then made into the space (or canal) which contains the nerve tissue and blood supply. This space is cleaned out with special instruments to remove any bacteria and to allow the placement of filling material inside the roots of the tooth. A filling is then placed in the opening in the top of the tooth. Once the root canal treatment has healed, a protective covering called a crown is required to prevent the tooth from fracturing in the future.

Will it be Painful?

For most patients, having root canal treatment is just like having a filling placed. There is very little, if any, discomfort. Sometimes, if a tooth is badly infected, Dr. Fox will place you on antibiotics prior to the root canal treatment so that the local anaesthetic (freezing) will work properly. This ensures that your procedure will be as comfortable as possible.

Most patients have a mild feeling of pressure around the tooth in the first week or two after the procedure is completed. The tooth may feel a bit tender to chew. This is completely normal and is usually alleviated by over-the-counter pain medications such as ibuprofen.