

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

What is Root Canal Therapy?

Root Canal Therapy is a treatment used to repair and save a tooth that is badly decayed or has become infected. During a root canal procedure, the nerve and pulp is removed and the inside of the tooth is cleaned and sealed.

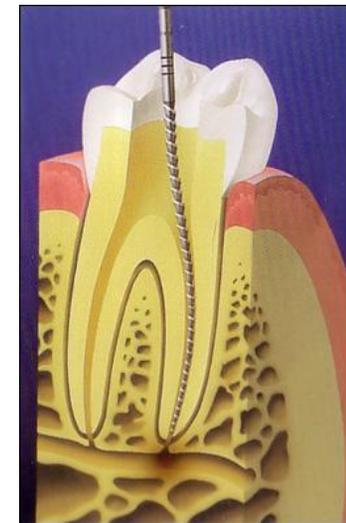
Does Root Canal Therapy hurt?

Root Canal Therapy has a reputation of being painful. However, most people report that the procedure itself is no more painful than having a filling placed. The discomfort experienced in the period leading up to the seeking of dental care is truly the painful period of time, not the root canal procedure itself.

What can I expect during my Root Canal Therapy?

Dr. Butler will start by making an access cavity through the crown to the pulp. The canal(s) then need to be prepared. High-tech instruments including miniature files will be used to remove the pulp and clean and smooth the canals. It is important that Dr. Butler reaches the entire canal, so x-rays will be taken at different steps. After the canal has been rinsed and dried, a rubbery material called gutta-percha is used to seal it. Finally, the access cavity can be restored. With the bacteria gone, the bone can heal again.

Post Operative Instructions for ROOT CANAL THERAPY



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Do not bite on anything hard such as nuts or candy. There may be a very large filling in the tooth which causes it to be a bit weaker than a normal healthy tooth.

It is advisable that you return to the office as soon as possible to have a crown made for your tooth. Due to the weakened state of the tooth with the root canal, a crown will support and protect it the best.

TENDERNESS/SENSITIVITY – It is normal to have some tenderness and/or sensitivity at and around the tooth that had the root canal therapy. This shouldn't last more than a few days. It is advised to take over the counter *Advil*, Ibuprofen or *Tylenol* as directed on the bottle for the first 48 hours after treatment.

SWELLING/FEVER – In some instances, swelling and/or fever may occur. This is the body's immune system reacting to the instrumentation at the end of the tooth. If these symptoms arise, please call our office.

Please follow these home care instructions carefully and call the office at (910) 799-9916 if you have any questions or concerns