



## Root Canal Treatment Information and Consent Form

Please take a minute to read through this consent form. It's useful for you as the patient to understand the purpose of your treatment, the procedure itself, as well as any potential complications and follow-up treatment. Please do feel free to ask any questions.

### **Why do I need Root Canal treatment?**

The goal of root canal treatment is to save a tooth that would likely otherwise require extraction.

Root canal treatment is indicated when there is irreversible damage or absence of the pulp (the nerve) inside the tooth, usually due to the presence of bacteria following dental caries or a trauma. Root canal treatment is the process of disinfection of the root canal system with the aim of removing bacteria and healing/preventing infection in the structures surrounding the roots.

Although root canal treatment has a high success rate, as with all medical and dental procedures, it is a procedure where results cannot be guaranteed.

### **What does Root Canal Treatment involve?**

- The treatment is usually completed over one or two appointments.
- You will be given some local anaesthetic to ensure you are comfortable during the procedure.
- A rubber sheet is placed over the tooth. This is partly to enable more successful treatment but also for your own comfort.
- An opening is made in the biting surface of the tooth to allow access to the root canals. The canals are then disinfected using instruments and chemicals.
- Once cleaned, the canals are then filled and the opening restored.
- It is usual to take x-rays before, during and after the procedure.



## **Risk and Complications**

As with any medical or dental treatment, procedures carry risks and complications. They might include but are not limited to:

- Instrument separation/breakage in narrow root canals. This may impact prognosis depending on the stage of treatment.
- Perforations (extra openings) of the canal with instruments. Depending on the site can often be repaired but may lead to tooth extraction.
- Blocked root canals that cannot be ideally completed.
- Incomplete healing, often associated with patient resistance to infection and bacteria involved.
- Discovery of an existing root fracture meaning root canal treatment is not viable and may require tooth extraction.
- Fracture, chipping, or loosening of existing tooth or crown during the procedure.
- Post-treatment discomfort.
- Post-operative infection requiring additional treatment or the use of antibiotics.
- Reactions to anaesthetics, chemicals or medications.

## **Alternative Treatment Options**

1. No treatment. Condition of the tooth is likely to deteriorate and cause pain/abscess.
2. Extraction: Tooth to be replaced with either nothing, a denture, a bridge or an implant.
3. Referral to a registered specialist in root canal treatment. It is important to note that Dr Rafferty has a special interest and further qualifications in root canal treatment but is NOT a registered specialist.

## **After Root Canal Treatment is completed**

You will be referred back to your general dentist for permanent restoration of the tooth. Most often a crown/cap is indicated to ensure a good seal of the root canal system and to prevent tooth fracture in future. Your general dentist will discuss this with you before referral for root canal treatment. Failure to have the tooth properly restored in a timely manner (generally within 30 days), significantly increases the possibility of failure of the root canal procedure or tooth fracture. It is then advisable to keep up with recommended check-up intervals to monitor the status of the tooth.

I have read and understood the information above and have had the opportunity to ask any questions

Patient Name: .....

Patient Signature: .....

Date: .....