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NON SURGICAL ENDODONTICS (ROOT CANAL TREATMENT)

INFORMATION SHEET

Endodontics is the treatment of the canal or pulp chamber that lies within the tooth and the root. It is recommended as an attempt to prevent the tooth's premature loss. If no treatment is carried out, there is a risk of infection, pain and/or loss of the tooth.

Please note side effects and complications are uncommon to rare and we at Smile Clinique would hope our rate is even less than the norm, due to the techniques and materials we use. Also bear in mind the complications are no different to any root canal treatments you may have had previously, its just you are now aware of them.

Root canal treatment is normally recommended when a diagnosis of peri-apical periodontitis has been made, where there is inflammation/infection of the nerve tissues within the tooth or beneath the tooth. It may also be recommended when the risk of nerve damage via decay is great and the dentist electively completes it to prevent future problems with the tooth. It can also be recommended, if the dentist wishes to strengthen the future restoration (crown) with a post, which is placed into the canal after a root canal treatment.

Endodontic treatment is considered to be very safe and effective. However, it is important to be aware of the potential risks and consequences of having this treatment.

Your treatment may take several visits over a few weeks to complete (although it is normally completed in one or two visits). During this time you may experience some discomfort in and around the tooth undergoing treatment. There is also a very small risk of swelling which typically resolves within a few weeks. As with all medical and dental procedures, there is a small chance (around 16%) that root canal treatment may not be successful. In such cases, additional treatment may be necessary which may result in an additional charge to you. Examples of other corrective treatments include re-treatment with a specialist, apicectomy (surgical root tip therapy) or possibly extraction.



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Once a tooth has been root canal treated, it tends to be more brittle and weak. For this reason, it is usually recommended to place a crown on the tooth for its protection. Without this precaution; there is a significant risk of the tooth fracturing which may then require extraction.

Very occasionally, one of the delicate instruments used for this procedure can break off inside the tooth. If we are unable to remove the piece of instrument, it may be close enough to the end of the root that we may elect to leave it in place and fill the canal up to the obstruction. If, however, this is not an option or if it is attempted without success, you may require treatment by a root canal specialist which will entail an additional charge.

We invite your questions concerning this or related procedures and their risks.

Please note that we may take photographs of your face, jaws and teeth before, during and after treatment that may be used for dental records, dental education, demonstrations, and professional publications. We may also use the photographs as marketing material for our website, patient education and printed materials (leaflets).

Please note that if your photographs are used for any of the above, your name and other identifying information will be kept confidential.