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Root Canal Treatment

Your guide to saving a natural tooth

Reviewed by Dr Sabeer Alikkantavida, Associate Dentist · GDC 124483 · Last reviewed August 2026

Creating beautiful natural smiles since 2005

A **root canal treatment** is a dental procedure used to save a tooth when the soft tissue inside it, called the **dental pulp**, becomes infected, inflamed, or damaged.

How Root Canal Treatment Works

Root canal treatment is a dental procedure **used to remove infected or damaged pulp from inside a tooth**. The dentist first numbs the area with a local anaesthetic to ensure the treatment is comfortable. A small opening is then made in the tooth to access the pulp chamber and root canals. The infected tissue and bacteria are carefully removed, and the canals are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Once cleaned, the canals are filled with a special material and sealed to prevent future infection.

Finally, the **tooth is restored with a filling or crown, allowing it to function normally while relieving pain and preserving the natural tooth**.

At our practice, we have a specialist with extensive experience in root canal treatment ensuring patients receive expert care using advanced techniques to achieve comfortable and effective results.

What Happens If an Infected Tooth Is Not Treated?

If an infected tooth is left untreated, the infection can worsen and spread beyond the tooth into the surrounding gums, and bone. This can lead to increasing pain, swelling and difficulty eating. Over time, the tooth may **become too damaged to save and require extraction**. But don't worry, seeking treatment early can help relieve discomfort, prevent complications, and preserve your natural tooth.

Does Root Canal Treatment Hurt?

Modern root canal treatment is designed to be as comfortable as possible and is usually our patients say that it is **no more painful than having a routine filling**. The tooth is numbed with a local anaesthetic before treatment begins, so you should not feel pain during the procedure.

You may experience some mild soreness or sensitivity for a few days afterwards, but this can usually be managed with over-the-counter pain relief and should quickly improve as the tooth heals.

How Long Does Root Canal Treatment Take?

Most root canal treatments take between **60 and 90 minutes** and can often be completed in **one or two appointments**, depending on the complexity of the tooth and the extent of the infection. Teeth with multiple root canals or more severe infections may require additional treatment time, but our dentist will discuss the expected timeline with you before the procedure.

Can the Tooth Still Hurt Afterwards?

It is normal to experience some **mild discomfort, tenderness, or sensitivity** for a **few days** after root canal treatment, especially when biting or chewing.

Is Extraction Cheaper?

Yes, a tooth extraction is **usually less expensive** than root canal treatment and a crown in the **short term**. However, removing a tooth can lead to additional costs later if you choose to replace it with a dental implant, bridge, or denture. Where possible, saving your natural tooth with **root canal treatment is often considered the best long-term option** for maintaining your oral health, appearance, and chewing function.

Why Does Root Canal Treatment Cost More Than a Filling?

Root canal treatment is **more complex and time-consuming** than a standard filling. It involves carefully removing infection from inside the tooth, cleaning and disinfecting the root canals, and sealing them to prevent further problems, often using specialist equipment and advanced technique.

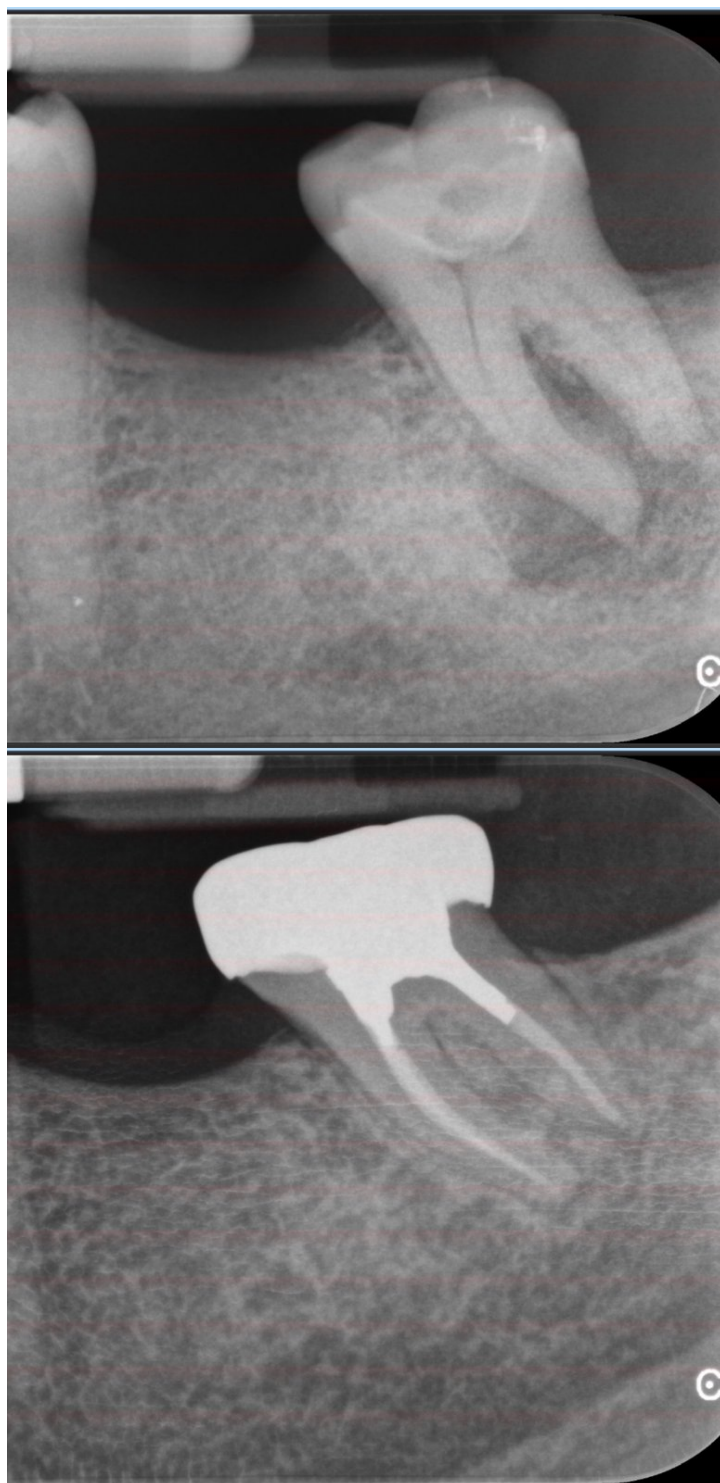
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What does it cost?

Prices are always current on our website at saledentalspa.co.uk/fees, and 0% finance options are available through our finance partner.

Better still: book a **free Smile Design consultation** and you will leave with a written plan and exact pricing for your own teeth, with nothing to pay for the consultation and no pressure to go ahead.



A real Sale Dental Spa case by Dr Sabeer. Before: infection visible at the tooth. After: the root canals cleaned, sealed and the tooth restored.

Rated 4.8 from over 370 Google reviews

Ready when you are

Book a free Smile Design consultation and see what is possible before you decide anything.

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