

Root Canal Treatment  
at



**BRUNSWICK  
DENTAL GROUP**  
ENHANCING YOUR SMILE

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**ROOT CANAL  
TREATMENT**

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*Don't remove it; restore it...*



Dr Jim Yannopoulos  
Brunswick Dental Group



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**www.bdg.net.au**

In the past, if your tooth was badly decayed, abscessed or broken down then it would most likely have required removal. In many cases removal of a tooth meant that you had two choices. You could choose to have a partial denture to replace the missing tooth or you were left with the choice of living with the loss.

Now there is a technique called Root Canal Treatment – also known as RCT.

### WHAT IS IT?

RCT is when the damaged nerve is removed from the canals of the tooth and filled with a substance called 'gutta percha'. Some teeth have more than one canal which requires x-rays to measure the number, width and length of each canal accurately. Now with this technique, you can have your natural tooth saved and restored to its full function.

### WHAT IS THE CAUSE?

When the nerve inside your tooth becomes contaminated by decay, disease or trauma, your nerve becomes inflamed and tender; a simple filling will not prevent the tooth from aching.

If you choose not to undergo treatment for the RCT when required, the nerve becomes infected, which can then spread to the jaw leading to severe pain and abscesses (infection at the end of the roots).



Decayed tooth



Endodontic root canal treatment



Endodontic treatment complete with restoration

Treatment options are:

- Tooth extraction (removal)
- Root Canal Therapy (aka endodontic treatment)



Most people will choose to save their natural tooth as its appearance and function is far

superior to anything artificial especially when considering cleaning, maintenance and chewing comfort.

### RISK FACTORS

- **It may not work** – RCT is considered to be 95% effective and can save most teeth. Sometimes there are small or hidden canals branching off from the main canal that are difficult to effectively clean. This allows bacteria an opportunity to multiply and cause pain.
- **Instrument fracture** – Occasionally the fine instruments that are used to clean the infection can break while in use and lodge in the tooth. Often it is unnecessary to do anything since this broken appliance effectively acts as a seal in the canal. If it is free of symptoms, it is best for the dentist to monitor

and of course, you should always contact our dentists if problems do occur.

- **Retreatment** – Pain or infection may occur months or years after a tooth has been treated due to further trauma such as a crack or decay which allows bacteria to enter the tooth. In this case, further treatment is required.
- **Discolouration** – Occasionally the tooth may become darker than surrounding teeth or than its original colour. A tooth that has undergone RCT can be treated with internal bleaching, with a crown or a veneer to rectify this.
- **Weakness** – A root filled tooth is more brittle and therefore prone to fractures than a living tooth. As a result, we recommend a crown to strengthen the tooth.
- **Pain or discomfort** – Occasionally there is an altered feeling incurred with a root filled tooth. Eventually this feeling does go away. If pain persists, additional treatment may be required.

Root Canal Treatment (RCT) is a fantastic option to save a tooth that would otherwise have required extraction. If you would like to know more about this procedure, please ask one of our friendly dentists here at Brunswick Dental Group.

