

## Endodontic Treatment Consent Form

Your tooth number \_\_\_\_\_ requires a root canal. This is because it is either infected, dead, very sensitive, or we need to use the canal space for a post to help rebuild a tooth on it.

Root canals have proven to be very successful; however there are some factors that could result in the treatment being unsuccessful. A failed root canal may require a second attempt, additional surgery to resolve the infection, or possible extraction. Root canals are successful on the first try over 90% of the time.

Here are some of the things that can go wrong:

1. If the infection is too large, there is no way to destroy all of the bacteria in the root canal of the tooth. There will be enough bacteria remaining to re-infect the tooth, and the tooth will become infected again in the future.
2. The root canal is like a chimney. Some chimneys are very wide, some are very narrow. The very thin chimneys are very difficult to clean because our instruments get stuck inside them. Sometimes they break off, and the broken piece gets stuck and prevents us from reaching the end of the canal. This means any bacteria past the blockage will not get destroyed. As well, if a canal is very curved, it could also result in an instrument getting stuck and breaking. If this happens, the root canal will probably fail eventually.
3. Sometimes the canals are so thin, they cannot even be seen. If the opening is so small that it can't be seen, there is no way of cleaning the bacteria out. The root canal may fail because of this. Sometimes in our best attempts we may puncture through the root and into the bone. This may also result in the need for extraction.
4. Most root canals are caused by a cavity that has reached the nerve and killed the tooth. Sometimes the cavity is so big that once it is cleaned out, there is little tooth remaining to rebuild on, and the tooth might break if it is chewed on with any amount of force. If your tooth appears unrestorable, we recommend extraction and replacement with a dental implant.
5. Another option besides the root canal is for the tooth to be extracted and replaced with a dental implant, a fixed bridge, or a partial denture. To ensure success, the best option is to extract the tooth and replace it with a dental implant. A dental implant has between a 95 – 99% success rate, and will not require retreatment as the root canal may require.
6. Root canals dry out the tooth and make the tooth brittle. All root canalled teeth should be protected with a crown for long term chewing. Without a crown, the tooth may still break, and need to be extracted because it may be unrestorable. It is very frustrating to have a tooth extracted after investing both time and money for root canal treatment in the first place.

At Bridge Street Dental Centre, we use the latest technology to do the best possible root canal treatment. Our goal is a healthy, long term, successful result.

I have read the above information. I understand English. I have had my questions answered to my satisfaction. I hereby consent to the planned root canal procedure as indicated above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date