

TARBERT STREET DENTAL SURGERY

Root Canal Treatment (RCT) Information

A root canal treatment (RCT) can help save your tooth for longer so you can still use it for smiling and eating. RCT is required when the nerve area inside a tooth gets infected with bacteria. This often happens painfully but can also occur without symptoms.

The infected nerve requires either a RCT or an extraction. Your dentist will discuss both options with you and based on your situation you can decide which treatment is more appropriate. If possible, keeping your tooth by carrying out RCT is usually the better option.

Root Canal Treatment



RCT normally requires 2-4 appointments spaced a few weeks apart to be completed. A more complex root canal case may require additional appointments

RCT are technically difficult procedures and a high level of skill is required to navigate the tiny canals in teeth and remove the bacteria that have infected your tooth. An antibacterial medicament is applied at the end of each visit and this helps to further reduce infection.

Sometimes when the tooth is heavily infected, local anesthetic doesn't work so well. In this case you may be prescribed antibiotics and pain relief to calm down the inflammation first. The area may feel a little tender for a few days after the treatment. Over-the-counter pain relief medication can also help calm this down and make you feel better (If you have any questions, please consult your dentist).

Cost

The cost of carrying out RCT varies based on the tooth, number of canals and overall complexity. Below is a general guide:

- Front teeth/ 1 canal ~\$580-\$780
- Premolar teeth/ 2 canals ~\$730-\$930
- Molar teeth/ 3 canals ~\$1180-\$1380

Any extra appointments if necessary ~\$200-\$300 each

***Please note: costs quoted above are for the **root canal treatment only**. Your dentist will discuss the **separate cost of the filling** to cover the root canal access hole.

Risks

RCT has a high success rate but there are also some risks and/or consequences such as pain or discomfort after treatment, separation of instruments, perforation of the tooth, tooth fracture before/during/after the treatment and tiny/calcified canals that may be unable to be located and accessed. Root canal specialist (Endodontist) referral or an extraction may be necessary if complications like these occur.

Aftercare

After RCT has been successfully completed, it is important to continue to take care of this tooth. Teeth following RCT are weaker than before, which makes them more prone to cracking or breaking. It is often recommended to place a crown on these teeth afterwards as this strengthens them and this is especially important for back teeth. It is also a good idea to monitor RCT teeth for life. This can be done as part of your annual check up.

Support

We understand that the cost of RCT can be an unexpected expense.

To help you with this, we have partnered with **Q card** which has 18 months interest free *conditions apply. Please ask reception for more details.

If you have any more questions about RCT, please don't hesitate to discuss it with your friendly dentist at your next appointment or alternatively phone reception at **034488899** or email at **tarbertstdental@gmail.com**

Consent

I understand that RCT is not 100% successful and that some of the risks associated with RCT are:

- a) Pain or discomfort after treatment (this usually subsides after a few days)
- b) Separation of instruments (a part of a small metal file may fracture and may not be able to be removed from the tooth) this may require specialist removal at my own cost.
- c) Perforation of the tooth or root (a hole through the wall of the tooth)
- d) The tooth or root could fracture during or after treatment, therefore becoming unsalvageable and requiring extraction.
- e) Canals may be unable to be located or unable to be cleaned due to closure of the canals.
- F) Discolouration of the tooth can occur following vital tissue death within the root canal

Should the treatment be unsuccessful for any reason, I am aware that my options are as follows:-

1. Retreatment and/or surgery by a specialist (Endodontist) -this will be at my own cost.
2. Extraction of the tooth/root - at my own cost

NOTE :The risk of failure is increased by non compliance and non attendance at scheduled appointments.

Consent

- It has been advised to me that following RCT my tooth may require strengthening with a crown as it will be weakened by the process. This is to prevent future tooth fracture (un-salvageable if it happens) or reinfection of the root canal system.
- I understand RCT needs to be completed within a certain timeframe to be effective, otherwise it might be necessary to go back a step, start again or abandon treatment at my own expense.
- I understand the information on this form also applies to any future RCT procedure as the risks remain the same.
- I have read and understood the above information.
- I accept the risks of the treatment.
- I have been given the option to delay RCT with antibiotics and pain medication as appropriate to reduce infection OR allow me time to come to an informed decision regarding treatment.

Patient Name : _____ Patient Signature: _____

Dentist Name _____ Dentist Signature _____

Date: _____