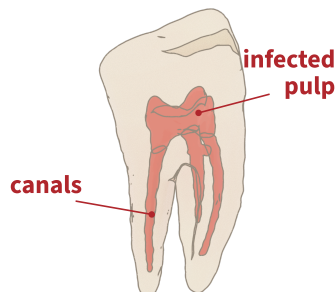


Your root canal: what happens next

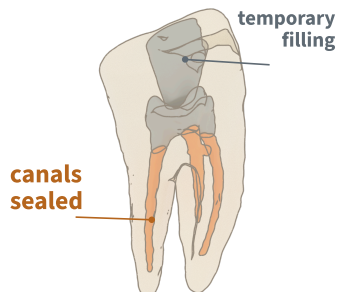
A root canal takes two offices. We find the problem and plan the whole sequence, an endodontist does the root canal, and then we rebuild the tooth. Here's how it goes, and what to do in between.

STEP 1 · HERE We found it



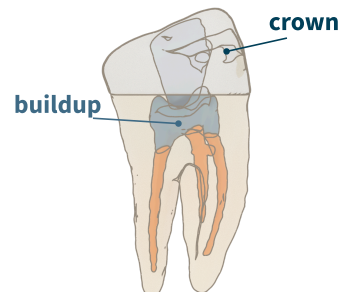
We tested the tooth and took X-rays, and planned the root canal and the crown together.

STEP 2 · THE ENDODONTIST The root canal



A specialist cleans out and seals the canals, then closes the top with a temporary filling.

STEP 3 · BACK HERE Buildup and crown



We rebuild the inside with a buildup, then cover it with a crown that keeps it from splitting.

Tooth _____ Endodontist _____ Phone _____

Root canal date _____ Crown visit with us _____

Why a specialist?

An endodontist is a dentist with extra training who does root canals all day, usually under a surgical microscope. The canals inside a tooth are tiny, curved and often more complicated than an X-ray shows, so we send every root canal to a specialist.

We send along what we found, your X-rays and the crown plan. The endodontist does their own exam first, and once in a while decides the tooth can't be reliably saved. Better to know that before treatment than after.

At the endodontist

- **Numbing.** The tooth and the area around it are numbed.
- **Cleaning out the inside.** Fine instruments remove the inflamed or infected tissue from the canals.
- **Sealing.** The canals are filled with a rubber-like material.
- **A temporary filling** closes the top until we rebuild it.

Usually one or two visits of about 90 minutes. The endodontists' association calls it typically painless; it's the toothache before it that hurts.

About cost. The endodontist bills their own fee. With the crown, it often uses up a year's insurance maximum, so we'd rather you see the whole number at the start.

The first few days

- **A little sore is normal.** It usually improves within 3 to 5 days. Ibuprofen or acetaminophen is often enough.
- **Go easy on that tooth.** The temporary filling is just that, and a back tooth with only a temporary on top can crack.
- **Getting worse, not better?** Pain that builds after a few days, or any new swelling, is a reason to call the endodontist or us.

Don't put off the crown

The root canal works, the tooth stops hurting, life gets busy, and months later a tooth with only a temporary on top cracks.

A back tooth that's had a root canal is hollow and more likely to split. In one study, back teeth crowned more than four months later were about three times as likely to be pulled. Front teeth don't always need one.

Swelling spreading toward your eye or into your neck? Go to an emergency room.

The same goes for trouble swallowing or breathing, or a fever with swelling. For anything else that worries you, call the endodontist or us at 702-734-0776.

Questions? 702-734-0776 · 2650 Lake Sahara Dr., #160, Las Vegas, NV 89117

Mon & Tue 7-12, 1-5 · Wed 7-12, 1-3 · Thu 7-12, 1-4

Sources: American Association of Endodontists, "Root Canal Explained" (steps, visit length, recovery); Pratt I, et al. J Endod. 2016;42(11):1598-1603 (crown timing; a single-clinic retrospective study showing an association). The tooth pictures are built from a real 3D scan (CBCT) of a lower molar; the treatment steps are illustrated on it. General information, not a substitute for an exam.



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