



Peninsula Dental Social Enterprise (PDSE)

Endodontic (Root Canal) Patient Information

Version 1.0

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Approved by: The Board

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Policy will be updated as required in response to a change in national policy or evidence-based guideline.

Root Canal Treatment

Patient Information Leaflet

We have identified that you have a tooth which requires endodontic treatment (root canal treatment).

The purpose of endodontic treatment is to retain a tooth which may otherwise require extraction. There are alternatives such as doing nothing, waiting for more definitive symptoms to develop, or extracting the tooth. As with all dental procedures each of these has associated risks and benefits and you should discuss this with the dental student and their supervisor prior to making a decision on how you wish to proceed.

Although endodontic treatment does have a high success rate it is very difficult to give you an exact value, as this depends very much on individual factors specific to your tooth such as:

- The number of roots of the tooth
- The amount of tooth left
- The extent of infection prior to treatment
- Experience of the operator

At Peninsula Dental School this procedure will be carried out by a dental student under supervision of an experienced qualified dentist. It is important to be aware that this procedure is very time consuming with the amount of time spent in the chair closely related to the complexity of the treatment

As far as risks involved there are some specific risks associated with this procedure which we feel you should be aware of prior to going ahead with this treatment;

- Risk of post-operative pain, swelling, sensitivity, infection for which you may need to be prescribed antibiotics
- Infection that may continue requiring further endodontic treatment or extractions
- Inability to fill the root canal because the canal is calcified or has a unique curvature (this may require endodontic surgery or extraction of the tooth)
- Fracture or breakage of the root or crown portion of the tooth during or after treatment as the tooth will become more brittle during and after this treatment
- Inadvertent breakage of files or instruments within the root canal system that are unable to be retrieved

- Perforation of the tooth during treatment
- Damage to existing fillings, crowns or veneers in order to access the root canal of your tooth
- In certain circumstances unforeseen conditions may arise that require a procedure that is different to that planned and may require referral to a specialist

At Peninsula Dental School we have carried out many such root canal treatments without such complications developing but we feel it is important you are given as much information as possible before making the decision to proceed.

If you have further questions please feel free to ask the student treating you or the supervisor who will be happy to provide you with any further information you require prior to making a decision.