

## Healthy Smile Tips

- Brush your teeth twice a day with a fluoride toothpaste.
- Clean between your teeth daily.
- Eat a healthy diet that limits sugary beverages and snacks.
- See your dentist regularly for prevention and treatment of oral disease.

For more information about taking care of your mouth and teeth, visit the hospital's website, [www.dentalhospitalbangkok.com](http://www.dentalhospitalbangkok.com)



DENTAL TREATMENT

# Root Canal Therapy:

## Can Save Your Tooth



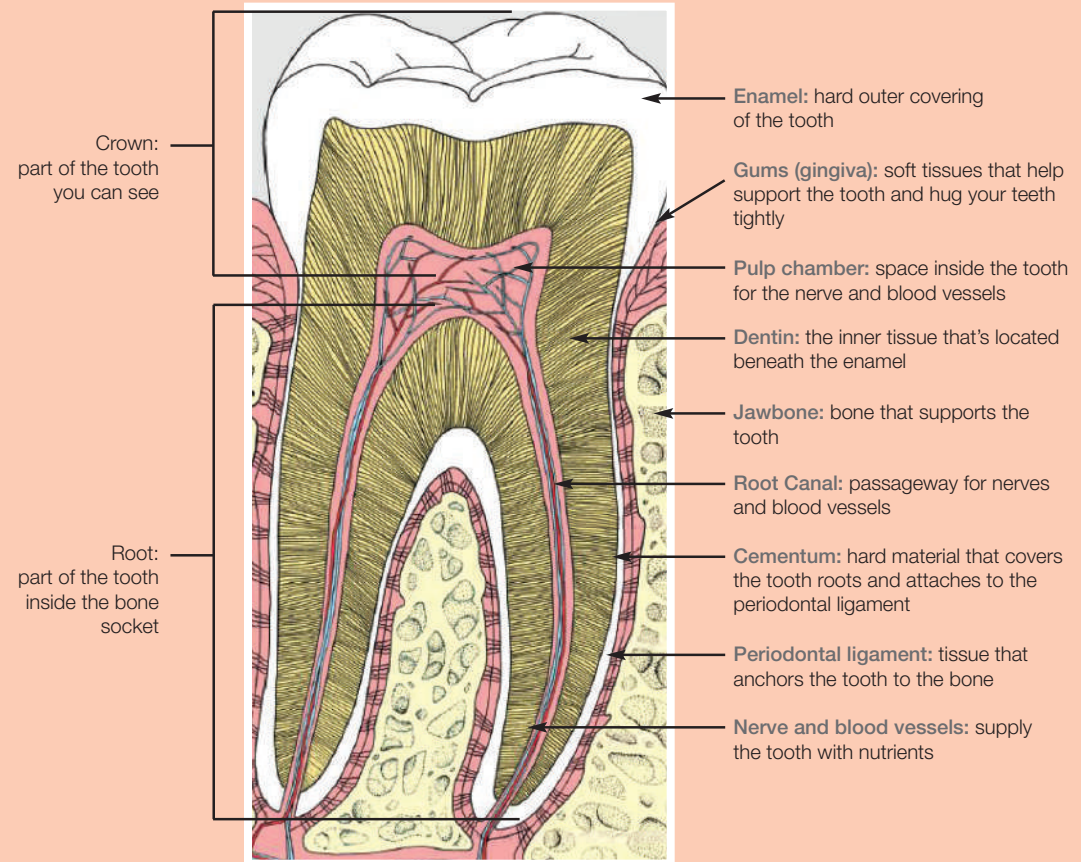
DENTAL HOSPITAL  
SUKHUMVIT 77 BANGKOK

## Root canal therapy can save your tooth

Your teeth are meant to last a lifetime. Years ago, diseased or injured teeth were usually pulled. But today, a tooth can often be saved through root canal therapy.

Endodontics is the branch of dentistry that specializes in treating diseases or injuries to the dental pulp. Your dentist may refer you to an endodontist to perform your root canal procedure.

### Diagram of a Healthy Tooth



### DENTAL HOSPITAL

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## Treatment is needed for infected or inflamed pulp

The pulp is soft tissue inside the tooth that contains blood vessels and nerves. When the pulp becomes infected or inflamed, treatment is needed.

Pulp infection and inflammation most often occur if you have:

- a cracked or chipped tooth
- a deep cavity or filling
- other serious injury to the tooth

All of these can allow bacteria to enter the pulp and cause infection and/or inflammation.

## Problems from infected or inflamed pulp

The infection or inflammation in the pulp can spread to the tissues around the root of the tooth. This can cause pain and swelling, but even if there is no pain, bacteria from the infection can damage the bone that holds the tooth in your jaw. If not treated, tooth decay can cause an abscess and can lead to serious infections spread to other parts of the body.

Without a root canal, the infection and damage will continue and your tooth most likely will need to be removed and replaced.

### Root canal therapy can prevent these problems by saving your natural tooth.

Also, root canal therapy, along with appropriate restoration, is a cost effective way to treat infected teeth because it is usually less expensive than extraction and placement of an implant.

## General steps of root canal therapy

Root canal therapy may involve one or more dental visits. Your endodontist will perform the necessary steps to save your tooth:

### 1. Your tooth is numbed for your comfort.

A thin, flexible sheet of latex or non-latex material called a rubber dam is placed over your tooth to keep it dry. An opening is made through the crown of the tooth into the pulp chamber.


### 2. Your tooth's nerve or pulp is removed from the pulp chamber and the canal of each root of the tooth. Each root canal is cleaned, shaped and disinfected so that it can be filled.

### 3. Your dentist may place medicine in the pulp chamber and root canal(s) to help treat the infection.

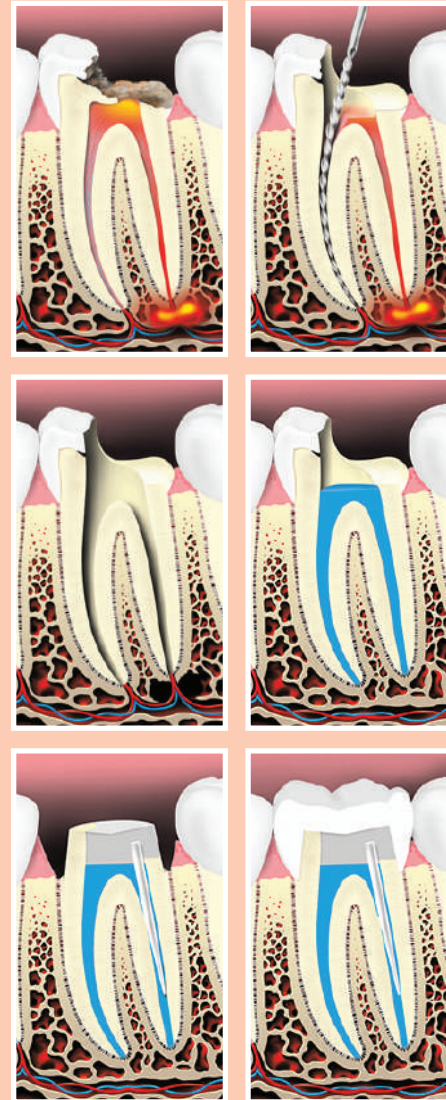
### 4. The treated root canals are filled with a rubber-like material to seal them.

### 5. A fiber post may be placed in the root canal to help retain the core material, which supports the crown restoration. You may be given antibiotics if the infection has spread beyond the end of the root(s).

### 6. Finally, your dentist restores the tooth with a crown to strengthen it and improve the way it looks.

 For your root canal treatment to be successful, it is very important to follow instructions from your dental team and to attend all of your follow-up appointments.

## Root canal therapy



## Root Canal Treatment Failure

The root canal therapy has a very high success rate, however, there is no guarantee that the root canal treatment can save all teeth, possible risks and complications can occur.

A root canal fails when a tooth that has been previously treated with a root canal procedure becomes infected or damaged at the root. The tooth may require extraction.

### Causes of root canal treatment failure

1. **Undetected canal branches:** Sometimes, a tooth may have more canals within it than are expected.
2. **Obstruction:** An obstruction may make it impossible for the endodontist to reach and thoroughly clean the entirety of the canal affected.
3. **Cracked roots:** The root of the affected tooth may develop a fissure or fracture deep beneath the gum, making it impossible to fully seal the canal.

### How long with the restored tooth last?

When properly restored and maintained, a tooth with a root canal treatment can last for many years. But, like any other tooth, it can become decayed or fractured or the tissue around it can get gum disease. Professional cleanings and regular dental exams will help keep your mouth healthy whether you've had root canal therapy or not.