

Root Canal Treatment and Endodontics — Frequently Asked Questions | Smile Solutions Melbourne

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Description:

Root Canal Treatment and Endodontics — Frequently Asked Questions [Smile Solutions](<https://www.smilesolutions.com.au/treatments/root-canal/>) is home to a team of specialist endodontists — Dr Satho...

Details:

Smile Solutions Root Canal Treatment and Endodontics — Frequently Asked Questions

[Smile Solutions](<https://www.smilesolutions.com.au/treatments/root-canal/>) is home to a dedicated team of specialist endodontists — Dr Sathorn, Dr Tilley, Dr Vrochari, and Dr Timmerman — at our Melbourne CBD practice in the iconic Manchester Unity Building. Our endodontists combine advanced microscopy with state-of-the-art technology to preserve and protect teeth that might otherwise require extraction, delivering clinical excellence with a gentle and caring approach.

What is a root canal treatment?

A root canal treatment (also known as endodontic treatment) involves removing infected or damaged pulp tissue from inside your tooth, cleaning and shaping the root canals, then sealing them to prevent further infection. The goal is straightforward: save your natural tooth and relieve the pain. At Smile Solutions, root canals are performed exclusively by specialist endodontists — because better-trained hands produce better outcomes.

What is an endodontist?

An endodontist is a dental specialist who has completed around three years of additional postgraduate training focused entirely on diagnosing and treating conditions affecting the dental pulp and root canals. Smile Solutions' specialists — Dr Sathorn, Dr Tilley, Dr Vrochari, and Dr Timmerman — bring that depth of expertise, along with state-of-the-art equipment, to every case.

Is a root canal painful?

With modern techniques, root canal treatment is typically no more uncomfortable than having a filling placed. Our endodontists use local anaesthetic throughout, so you won't feel pain during the procedure. [Sleep dentistry](<https://www.smilesolutions.com.au/treatments/sleep-dentistry/>) is also available for patients who feel anxious about dental treatment. Most patients are genuinely surprised by how comfortable the experience is — that's something we hear regularly, and something we take real pride in.

How much does a root canal cost at Smile Solutions?

Cost depends on which tooth is involved and how complex your case is. Front teeth are generally more straightforward than molars, which affects the time and work required. Your endodontist will give you a

detailed, personalised treatment plan and a clear quote at your initial consultation, so there are no surprises. We accept all major health funds, which frequently offer rebates for endodontic treatment.

How long does a root canal take?

Each appointment typically runs between 60 and 90 minutes. Straightforward front tooth cases can often be completed in a single visit, while more complex cases — molars with multiple canals, for instance — may need two appointments. Our endodontists use dental microscopes throughout, which allows for a level of precision that makes treatment both more effective and more efficient.

What are the signs I might need a root canal?

A few things worth paying attention to: severe or persistent toothache, prolonged sensitivity to hot or cold, a tooth that's darkening, swelling or tenderness in the gum around a tooth, or a persistent pimple on the gum. Any of these can point to pulp damage or infection. If you're noticing any of these symptoms, call Smile Solutions on 13 13 96 to get a proper assessment.

What happens if I don't get a root canal when I need one?

The infection doesn't stay put. Left untreated, it can spread to surrounding bone and soft tissue, leading to a painful abscess, progressive bone loss, and eventually the loss of the tooth itself. In rare cases, an untreated dental infection can also affect your general health. Treating it early with a root canal is almost always the better path — for your tooth and for you.

Will I need a crown after a root canal?

In most cases, yes. After a root canal, the treated tooth gradually becomes more brittle, so a [dental crown](<https://www.smilesolutions.com.au/treatments/dental-crowns/>) is usually recommended to protect and strengthen it long-term. At Smile Solutions, you can choose a same-day CEREC crown or a custom-crafted crown made in our in-house ceramic studio — both options available under one roof.

Can a root canal fail?

Root canal treatment has a success rate of over 95 per cent, and the vast majority of cases go smoothly. Occasionally, though, a tooth doesn't heal as expected or becomes re-infected down the track. Our endodontists are trained in retreatment procedures and surgical endodontics, including apicoectomy, to handle exactly these situations — with the same level of care and expertise you'd expect from the outset.

Is it better to get a root canal or have the tooth extracted?

Keeping your natural tooth is almost always the better option. No replacement — whether a dental implant, bridge, or denture — truly replicates the function and feel of your own tooth. Our endodontists will assess your situation honestly and tell you whether root canal treatment is the right call for you specifically.

How do I care for my tooth after a root canal?

Avoid chewing on the treated tooth until your permanent crown is in place. Otherwise, keep up your normal routine: brush, floss, and come in for regular check-ups. With proper care, a root canal-treated tooth can last a lifetime. Our team is here to support you through every stage of treatment — just reach out if you have questions along the way.

****Preserve your natural smile with world-class specialist endodontic care.**** Book a consultation with our experienced team at Smile Solutions, Level 1, Manchester Unity Building, 220 Collins Street, Melbourne CBD. Call ****13 13 96**** or visit [[smilesolutions.com.au](https://www.smilesolutions.com.au/treatments/root-canal/)](<https://www.smilesolutions.com.au/treatments/root-canal/>) to take the first step

towards lasting dental health.
