

Root Canal Therapy (RCT)

Veterinary Dentistry and Oral Surgery of Rhode Island

Client and Patient Education Sheet

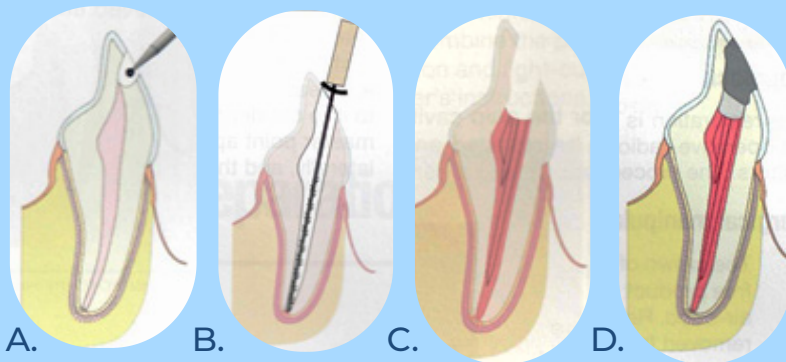
What is RCT?:

Root Canal Therapy is a procedure that allows the patient to keep the function and structure of their tooth.

The tooth is no longer alive once performed.

All of the infected pulp tissue is removed, and the area is disinfected. The tooth is then filled with a hard, rubber-like substance and restorative dental materials to restructure the tooth and prevent further infection. It is important to note that the whole structure of the tooth cannot be built back using these materials, otherwise it would break. The tooth is re-built to have a smooth shape.

- Pulp chamber is made to access the inside of the tooth.
- Pulp tissue is removed and cavity is filed, shaped, cleaned, irrigated, and rinsed.
- Sealer is inserted into the pulp cavity.
- Restoration material is placed on the coronal access.



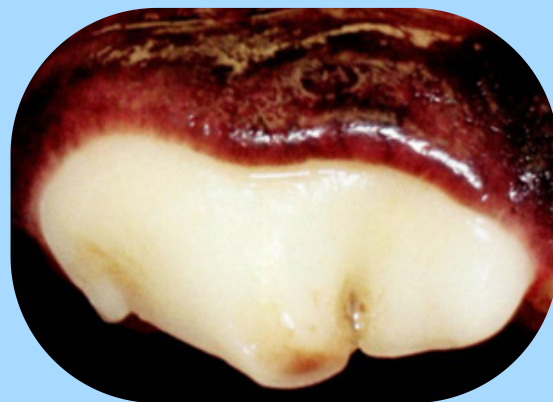
Qualifying For Treatment:

Not all teeth that have a fracture will be a good candidate for Root Canal Therapy. Root Canal Therapy does have a chance to fail, so it may not be a great option for every patient. Often, an oral exam with imaging under anesthesia is required to properly determine if Root Canal Therapy is an option. Additional protection, such as prosthetic crowns, can be offered in qualifying cases.

What Does It Treat?:

Root Canal Therapy is a dental procedure that is used to restore the structure and shape of a tooth that has pulp exposure caused by a tooth being fractured, making it useable again. This can be an alternative treatment to extraction, which removes the tooth completely.

Teeth that are broken often have pulp exposure. Prolonged pulp exposure will inevitably lead to inflammation and infection.



Things to note:

It is required that patients receive semiannual postoperative oral and radiographic examinations after Root Canal Therapy is performed to ensure the treatment is successful. It is also important to note that, while RCT can be completed in one visit, some cases will require multiple visits depending on the extent of the inflammation.