

DR. RICKY SEE & ASSOCIATES

ROOT CANAL TREATMENT

WHAT ARE ROOT CANAL TREATMENTS?

Due to serious decay or some other severe damages to a tooth, the nerve inside the root canals may become inflamed and root canal treatment is required to take care of the inflammation. Teeth with an infected or dead nerve can be extremely painful sometimes, while occasionally it can be totally painless. Root canal treatment is required to control the pain and the spread of infection.

HOW IS ROOT CANAL TREATMENT DONE?

Root canal treatments normally take just 1 appointment to complete. You may choose to have local anesthetic only or we may do it under sedation if that's what you prefer. The first part of root canal treatment involves cleaning, shaping and disinfecting the root canal systems. To ensure long term success, a root canal filling would then be inserted to permanently seal the root canal system. Antibiotics may also be needed occasionally to help control the infection. With today's advance equipments including the operating microscope, ultrasonic tips, Nickel Titanium files and the electronic apex locator to name a few, root canals treatments are amazingly simple, quick and easy.

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER ROOT CANAL TREATMENT?

While some people may not have any pain after root canal treatments, other may experience different degree of discomfort after the local anaesthetic (freezing) wears off. Pain killers like Advil would definitely help. 2 tablets of 400 mg Advil should be taken 1 hour before treatment and thereafter 1 tablet every 4-6 hours for 2 day if post-treatment discomfort is a concern. However, the discomfort usually goes away by itself after several days and should raise no concern.

WHAT'S NEXT

Root canal treatment is a permanent procedure, which is meant to last a lifetime. Modern root canal treatments enjoy a success rate of higher than 95%. But in the rare occasion when teeth don't response well to root canal treatment, additional procedures like apical surgery or even extraction might be necessary.

Post & Core and Crown are usually required to support root canal treated teeth because teeth that require root canal treatment are usually badly damaged in the first place and therefore require the extra protection in order to function safely in the long run.

With advance techniques and technology, root canal treatments nowadays are usually quick, easy, simple and painless.