

Endodontists: Your Key to Better Oral Health

Ali Behnia, DMD, MS
Fallsgrove Endodontics



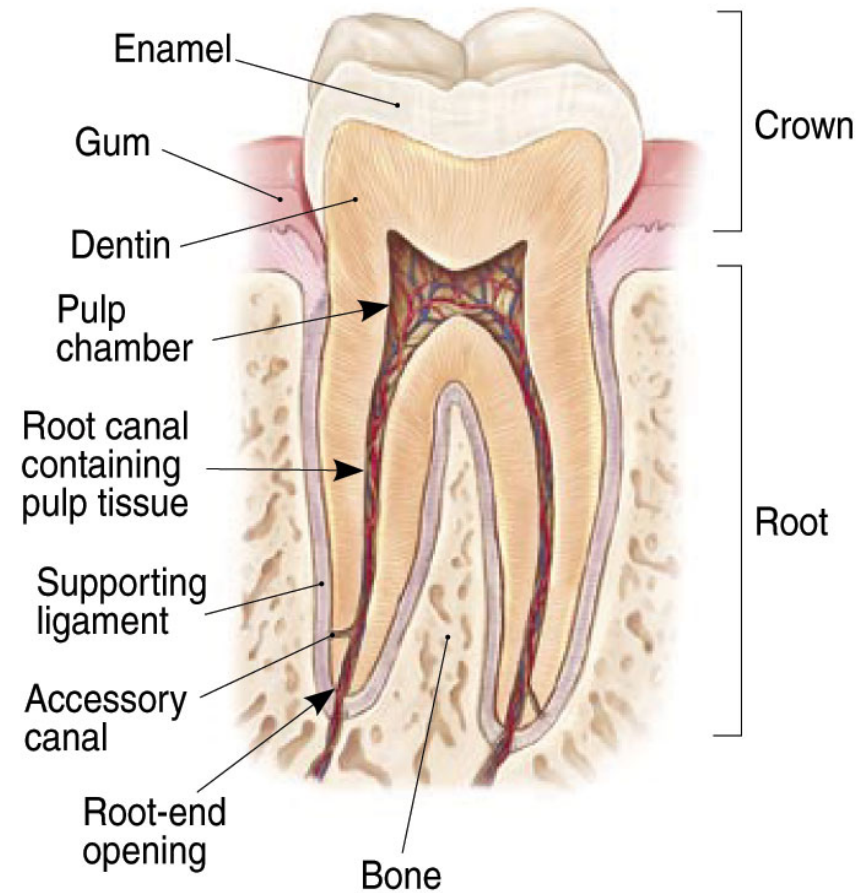
What Is An Endodontist?

- Endodontists complete four years of dental school and two or more years of advanced training in endodontics.
- Endodontists treat problems related to damaged tissue inside the tooth.



What Is Root Canal Treatment?

- Root canal treatment is needed when the pulp becomes inflamed or infected as a result of:
 - injury;
 - deep decay;
 - repeated dental procedures; or
 - a cracked or chipped tooth.



Root Canal Myths

- Root canals do not cause pain—they relieve pain.
- Patients who have had root canals performed by an endodontist are six times more likely to describe them as “painless” than those who have never had a root canal.



Root Canal Myths

- With new technologies and anesthetics, root canal treatment is similar to having a cavity filled.
- Root canals can usually be completed in a single visit to an endodontist.



Root Canal Myths

- Eighty-five percent of patients who have had a root canal performed by an endodontist would return to an endodontist for future work.
- Root canals do not cause illness.



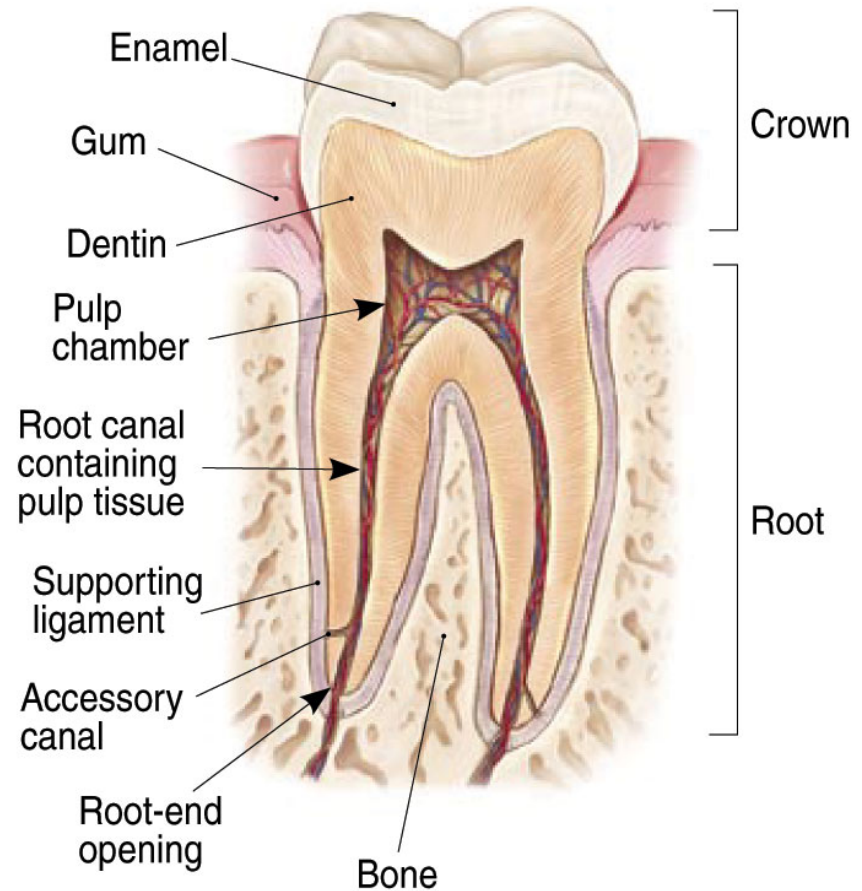
Root Canal Facts

- Root canals save nearly 16 million teeth annually.
- Root canals performed by endodontists are a better and common alternative to tooth extraction.
- Americans feel strongly about keeping their natural teeth.
 - 76 percent prefer a root canal to tooth extraction.
 - One-third would not sell a healthy front tooth for any amount of money.



How Are Root Canals Performed?

- During root canal treatment, the endodontist:
 - removes the inflamed or infected pulp;
 - cleans and shapes the inside of the canals (channels inside the tooth); and
 - fills and seals the space.



How Are Root Canals Performed?

- After a root canal, the endodontist returns the patient to a general dentist to have a crown placed or other restorative work performed.
- After restoration, the tooth continues to function like any other tooth.



Post-Treatment Care of Root Canals

- It is normal to feel some tenderness in the area for a few days after root canal treatment.
- Symptoms are temporary and you can often find relief from over-the-counter medication.
- For a short time after your root canal treatment, your tooth may feel slightly different from your other teeth.



Post-Treatment Care of Root Canals

- Care should be taken when chewing or biting on the treated tooth until you have had it permanently restored by your dentist.
- Feel free to contact your endodontist at any time with questions or concerns.



- Saving your natural teeth is priority #1.
- A healthy natural tooth is better than an implant or bridge.
- Root canals are less expensive and less involved than implants.
- If your dentist recommends having a tooth pulled, visit an endodontist to see if you can save your tooth.



Saving a Knocked-Out Tooth

- More than 5 million teeth are knocked out every year by:
 - car accidents;
 - sports injuries; and
 - falls.



Saving a Knocked-Out Tooth

- With proper emergency action, a tooth that has been entirely knocked out of its socket often can be successfully replanted and last for years.



Saving a Knocked-Out Tooth

- Steps to saving a knocked-out tooth
 1. Pick up the tooth by the crown, not the root.
 2. Rinse the tooth with water.
 3. Reposition the tooth into the socket, if possible.
 4. If not possible, keep the tooth moist (use milk or keep it inside your cheek).
 5. See an endodontist within 30 minutes.



When to See an Endodontist

- See an endodontist if:
 - your tooth is sensitive to heat or cold;
 - your tooth feels tender to touch or when chewing; or
 - you experience swelling of the mouth or face.

