

## Root Canals

Root canal treatments are needed when the nerve pulp inside the tooth becomes irritated, inflamed, infected or dies. Some of the causes of nerve pulp inflammation or death can be due to traumas to the tooth via injuries or accidents, the development deep cavities in the tooth, large fillings, old fillings, or chronic grinding of the teeth.

Oftentimes, an infected tooth show signs and symptoms such as pain when biting, swelling, sensitivity to hot and cold stimuli, dull aching pain or sharp, shooting pain, throbbing pains and general pain in the other areas of the head, neck or mouth regions. Sometimes however, there happen to be no discernible symptoms at all. Dental x-rays can be a useful tool if the bone around the root of the tooth has been resorbed due to the infection. When a tooth dies or becomes infected, your options can be either a root canal treatment to try and salvage the tooth or a tooth extraction to remove the infected tooth and subsequent infection. If the infection goes untreated this can be very painful for the patient and can become dangerous if the infection spreads to the brain, lungs or heart.