



I Need A Root Canal – Now What?

***This information sheet in no way constitutes medical or dental advice. Always consult your Hemophilia Treatment Center (HTC) or Hematologist’s office before seeking any treatment.**

What is a root canal?

A root canal procedure is also called endodontic treatment. A root canal means treatment to the inside of the tooth. A dentist who specializes in endodontic treatment is called an Endodontist.

Why do I need a root canal?

Root canal treatment may be needed to repair and save the tooth. Without a root canal, the tissue surrounding the tooth will become infected and an abscess may form. You may develop a “pimple” on your gum or you may have severe pain.

Does anything else ever cause a tooth to need a root canal?

- Yes. A tooth can be non-vital (die) as a result of an accident or fall during which a tooth experiences trauma like a severe bump.
- Trauma can happen during sports, or play or a car accident or just accidental contact between your tooth and an object or another person.
- A tooth can “die” almost immediately after an accident or it may be stable for many years.
- *Always wear a seat belt in a car and a mouth guard with sports to protect teeth from trauma.*

How is a non-vital or infected tooth treated?

- The dentist or Endodontist will drill a small hole into the top of the tooth.
- Using special small instruments he will remove the pulp and tissue from the inside of the tooth.
- When the inside of the tooth is clean, the tooth will be filled with special material.
- Following endodontic treatment, a crown may need to be placed on the tooth.

Is endodontic treatment covered by dental insurance?

- Endodontic treatment is usually included in commercial dental insurance.
- Medicaid does not cover endodontic treatment for adults.
- Talk with the dentist or social worker to see if financial aid is available.
- Always get a pre-treatment estimate and prior authorization as the combined cost of the root canal and the crown may exceed the dental benefit for the year.

If you are going to have a root canal:

- Contact your HTC nurse or Hematologist’s office prior to your appointment for clotting factor recommendations.
- Provide the dentist/Endodontist with contact information for your HTC or Hematologist