

Consultation of Previously Treated Root Canal

With proper care, you'll keep teeth that have had root canal treatment for a lifetime but it's possible for those teeth to heal improperly, becoming painful or diseased months or even years after treatment. If this happens to your treated teeth you have a second chance to save the tooth with retreatment. An additional procedure may be able to diminish dental pain or discomfort and promote healing. If you suspect a tooth that had a prior root canal requires retreatment, visit your dentist or endodontist for evaluation.

As with any dental or medical procedure, it's possible your tooth won't heal as expected after initial treatment for a variety of reasons, including:

- Narrow or curved canals were not treated during the initial procedure.
- Complicated canal anatomy went undetected in the first procedure.
- The placement of the crown or other restoration was delayed following the endodontic treatment.
- The restoration did not prevent salivary contamination to the inside of the tooth.

A new problem can also jeopardize a tooth that was successfully treated, such as:

- New decay can expose the root canal filling material to bacteria, causing a new infection in the tooth.
- A loose, cracked or broken crown or filling can expose the tooth to new infection.
- A tooth sustains a fracture.

A consultation appointment is required in this situation as the *cause* of inadequate healing will ultimately determine which *treatment* is required. Occasionally a tooth cannot be saved with a root canal or retreatment. Dr. Beasley will gather information from his clinical examination and additional 3D-imaging to determine the cause of root canal failure and whether it is amenable to endodontic retreatment. After all of the necessary information is acquired, a professional recommendation is made for you. He will then answer any questions to help guide you into making a decision that is right for you.

