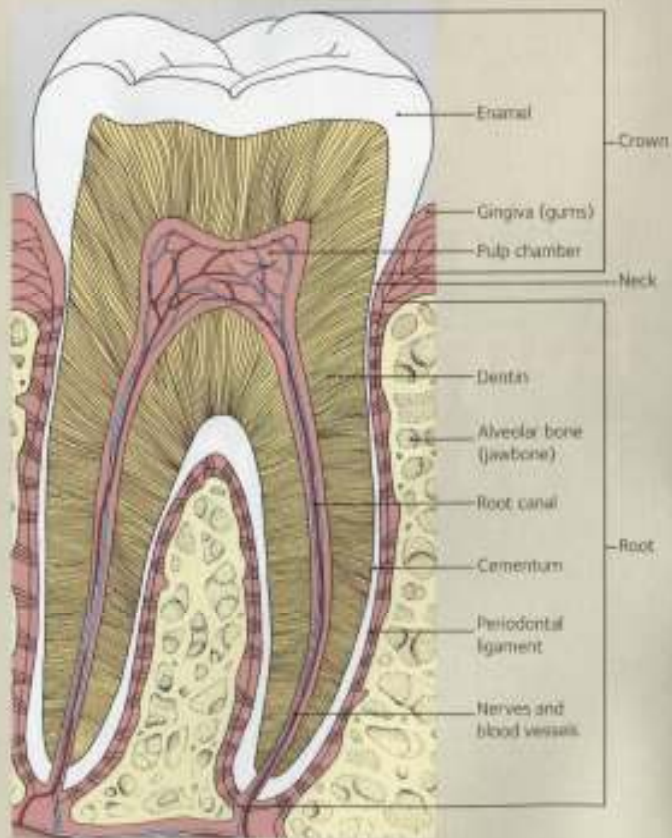




Understanding Root Canal Treatment

Natural teeth are meant to last a lifetime. Years ago, diseased or injured teeth frequently were extracted. But today, even if the pulp in one of your teeth becomes injured or infected, the tooth often can be saved through root canal (*endodontic*) treatment. Endodontics is the branch of dentistry concerned with the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases or injuries to the dental pulp. An endodontist is a dentist who specializes in root canal treatment.

Diagram of a Healthy Tooth



How long will the restored tooth last?

A tooth with a root canal filling can provide years of service similar to nearby teeth that have not been treated. However, teeth with root canal fillings may become decayed, develop fracture lines, or gum disease can develop around the treated tooth, just like any other tooth. Good daily cleaning habits and regular dental exams will help you keep and maintain your teeth.

What materials are used for the crown?

Crowns are made from a number of materials, including gold or non-precious alloys, porcelain or ceramic, acrylic or composite resin, or combinations of these. The type of material chosen depends on a number of factors including where the tooth is located in your mouth, the color of the tooth, and the amount of natural tooth remaining. Your dentist will assist you with this decision.

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