

Conventional Root Canal Treatment and Apicoectomy

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Editorial

Conventional root canal treatment and Apicoectomy are the procedures that are carried out when the pulp inside the canal of the root becomes inflamed or infected. The causes for the infection or inflammation can be deep infection, continuous dental procedures on a tooth or a crack in the tooth. If the infection is untreated, it can lead to pain or swelling and the same infection spreads to the surrounding bone and remaining tissues nearby the root tip.

Conventional root canal treatment procedure includes drilling a small hole into the pulp chamber from the biting surface of the back tooth or from behind the front tooth. The infected tissue is thereby removed from the pulp chamber and the root canals. The empty space is disinfected and is shaped with the use of small flexible instruments, and is filled and sealed. The access hole is covered using a temporary or permanent filling material. A cap is most commonly used to replace the lost part of the tooth; this cap also protects the tooth from further damage and stresses. Even after so much of work goes into the root canal treatment, it does not guarantee successful treatment of the infected tooth. This occurs because the root canal can become re-infected due to variety of reasons that includes recurrent or new decay, previously undetected extra canals branching from the primary canal at the root end of the tooth; and, sometimes, calcification (narrowing and hardening) of canals as a result of trauma or aging this results in the blockage of canals that prevents it from being completely cleaned by root canal treatment.

At times, conventional root canal retreatment could not be possible, or may even make the tooth vulnerable. The best alternative is to treat the infection from the root tip of the

tooth instead of the crown part with the help of Apicoectomy. Apicoectomy unlike the conventional root canal treatment involves the surgical procedure via gum. This procedure involves the following steps. The infected or the inflamed area is numbed using local anesthesia and a small cut is made through the gum tissue of the affected root, that provides direct contact to the infected areas of peri-apical tissue. This procedure allows the removal of infected area along with the tissue around the root tip along with few millimeters of root tip itself. Small fillings are placed at the end of the root canal in order to seal the canal and protect it from further infection. Later few stitches are made to make sure that the gum tissue is closed and healed properly. The absence of any infection allows the treated area to grow and return to the condition and function properly. In this procedure endodontists make use of fiber optic lights, ultrasonic instruments and fiber optic lights that cleans the treated area using high frequency vibrations. With the help of these advanced technologies endodontists have an accurate view of the tooth, makes the treatment quick and successful.

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