



Country Dental

Mount House,
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Hythe,
Kent CT21 5NT

Appointments:
01303 266657

Opening times:
Monday to Friday
9.00am to 1.00pm
2.00pm to 6.00pm

Late evenings
by appointment

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Root Canal Treatment

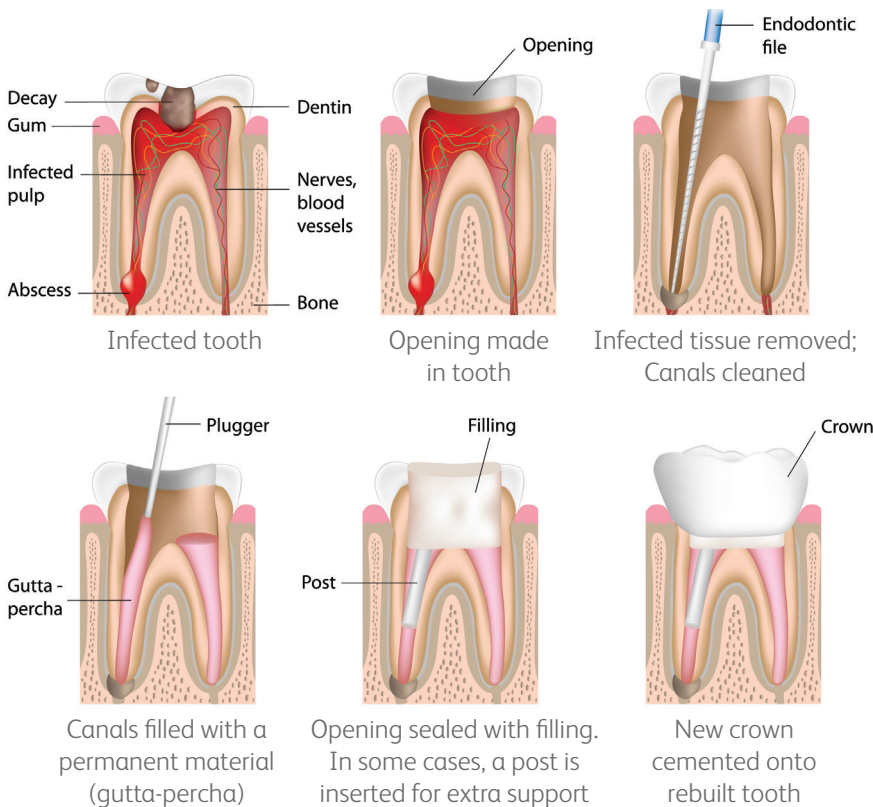
Root canal treatment is also known as endodontic treatment. It is required when the nerve or blood supply to the tooth, known as the pulp, is traumatised or infected by bacteria. This can occur when tooth decay invades or is close to the nerve.

If an acute infection occurs, the tooth may be painful or it may die quietly. A dead tooth is identified and noted either as a discolouration or through an x-ray finding.

Root canal treatment is an option available where the nerve has died but the patient wishes to save the tooth. If this tooth is not treated, or indeed extracted, an acute abscess may follow, while in the longer term a cyst or granuloma may occur. Dental abscesses can be life threatening, so it is important that infection is treated.

Root canal treatment initially involves removing the infected tissue from the root canals, clearing the canals to the end of the roots, measuring the roots and then filling them with an inert filler to prevent further infection.

Treatment involves two or three visits. A local anaesthetic is often given so that treatment is not uncomfortable. The root canal system can be complex and thus treatment is a skilled, time-consuming procedure.



Once the root canals are filled and the infection has subsided, the tooth is restored with a filling or a crown. A crown is often advised, as a tooth requiring root canal treatment has often already been heavily restored. In this way, protection of the tooth from fracture is addressed.

If you do not wish to have the tooth root filled, then an extraction will be necessary to avoid further infection.