

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

Welcome to SIMPLY ENDODONTICS, a clinic dedicated to providing high quality root canal treatments (endodontics).

At SIMPLY ENDODONTICS we use the most up to date techniques and equipment (including the surgical microscope), and adhere to the General Dental Council and British Endodontic Society guidelines to ensure that the highest possible standard of endodontics (root canal treatment) is achieved.

The word 'Endodontics' comes from the Greek meaning 'inside' (endo) the 'tooth' (odons). Root canal treatment/Endodontics is required when the inside (pulp) of the tooth has been irreversibly damaged. This damage may occur for a variety of reasons, for example, dental caries (decay), trauma, or damage resulting from old fillings, crowns etc. The alternative to root canal treatment is often extraction of the tooth.

If you require endodontic (root canal) treatment or advice, your dentist will make a referral. You may also contact us directly to arrange a consultation.

Rest assured that you will remain registered with your own dentist and at the SIMPLY ENDODONTICS clinic you will only receive advice and treatment relating to the root canal treatment for which you have been referred. We will send you and your dentist the details of any treatment you receive at SIMPLY ENDODONTICS.

At SIMPLY ENDODONTICS it is important that patients:

- feel totally comfortable with our service before, during and after treatment
- fully understand the procedure and the stages of the treatment, as well as the costs involved (all discussed at the consultation appointment)
- feel able to contact us at any time with queries
- be assured that by choosing us to provide your endodontic treatment that your registration with your regular dentist will not be affected.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The following is a series of 'Frequently Asked Questions' relating to endodontics (root canal treatment) prepared by the British Endodontic Society and can also be viewed at <http://www.britishendodonticsociety.org.uk/patients/further-information.html>

How many appointments are necessary?

Sometimes endodontic treatment is completed in one appointment but usually two or three visits may be necessary.

How long will the tooth last?

With proper restoration and care it may last a lifetime. Proper dental care includes regular brushing and flossing, good diet and periodic dental check-ups.

Does endodontic treatment hurt?

With the use of modern techniques, root canal therapy typically involves little or no discomfort. Often there is pain before treatment and endodontic therapy provides relief.

Will there be pain after procedure?

Cleaning the root canals may cause some slight tenderness but usually over-the-counter pain killers alleviate the discomfort. In the unlikely event that pain persists or if you experience severe pain, call your dentist or endodontist.

How much does endodontic treatment cost?

The expense of an endodontic procedure varies depending on how severe the problem is and the type of tooth affected. Molars with three or more canals are more difficult to treat and the fee will therefore be more. Endodontic treatment is usually more economical in the long term than any other alternative treatment.

What are the alternatives to endodontic treatment?

The alternative to endodontic treatment is extraction of the tooth. Loss of a tooth could create a functional problem such as chewing or an aesthetic problem. Restoring the lost tooth may involve the provision of a prosthetic replacement such as a denture, bridge or a dental implant the costs of which are variable and usually higher.

Can all teeth be treated endodontically?

Occasionally a tooth cannot be saved. Endodontic treatment can be performed only if the root canals are accessible and can be adequately cleaned and sealed. The tooth must also have sufficient bone support. We only carry out treatment where we can give a good long term outlook.

Can the treatment fail?

Endodontic treatment can have success rate of up to 90% in general if carried out to a good standard allowing the tooth to remain in function. Problems can occur if the tooth develops decay or the restoration on the tooth fails, or on occasions despite good care the tooth may not heal as expected. Further endodontic treatment or surgery may be carried out if appropriate. A tooth that develops a crack can also be a cause of failure and may result in loss of the tooth.

What is Endodontic Retreatment?

Teeth that have had endodontic (root canal) treatment can last as long as natural teeth, however, in some cases the treatment can fail or symptoms can persist. This may happen shortly after the treatment has been performed or even years following the treatment.

In these cases it may be possible to carry out the treatment again, a procedure called endodontic retreatment.

Do you want to know more?

If you have questions before or after your treatment, your dentist will be happy to talk to you.

About Aisling Quinn

Aisling Quinn qualified as a dentist in 1993 and has almost 20 years experience in providing a high standard and wide variety of dental treatments to all age groups of patients.

In 2006 Aisling took the opportunity to study endodontics (root canal treatment) in more depth and gained a Master of Science in Endodontic Practice qualification from The Royal London Dental Teaching Hospital. She still works there part-time carrying out more difficult treatments and also teach endodontics to undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Aisling is a member of the British Dental Association, Royal College of Surgeons, Faculty of General Dental Practitioners and the British Endodontic Society. She is dedicated to keeping up-to-date and regularly attend lectures, seminars and conferences relating to general dentistry and endodontics.

Having worked and lived in East Kent for over 15 years, Aisling is now delighted to offer a clinic dedicated to providing a high standard of endodontics in the local area.



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