



## ROOT CANAL TREATMENT IN PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY



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- ▶ Root Canal Treatment (RCT) is also called as endodontic treatment of a tooth.
- ▶ Tooth has 2 outer layers which are hard, called as Enamel and Dentin.
- ▶ These 2 layers cover an inner most part of a tooth called as PULP.
- ▶ PULP is a soft tissue which is made up of nerves and vessels.
- ▶ Whenever a dental decay affects Enamel and Dentin reaching the PULP chamber one gets pain due to infection and inflammation.

### WHEN IS THE ROOT CANAL TREATMENT IS REQUIRED?

#### RCT is required in the following conditions-

- ▶ Deep decay involving the Pulp chamber.
- ▶ Traumatic/ injured tooth.
- ▶ Sensitive tooth due to severe erosion
- ▶ and attrition.
- ▶ Tooth with a crack on it.
- ▶ Intentional RCT in some cases of crown and bridge.

#### WHAT DO WE FEEL ?

- ▶ Food lodgment in decayed tooth.
- ▶ Tooth ache which worsens at night.
- ▶ Swelling associated with painful tooth.
- ▶ Pus discharge.
- ▶ Fever.



#### WHAT IS RCT?

Although medicines are prescribed sometimes, they will give a temporary relief from pain.

- ▶ RCT method varies in children and adults.
- ▶ It usually requires 2-3 sessions.
- ▶ At first Xray is made to evaluate decay and infection of the tooth.

#### Steps of RCT in Children (milk teeth):-

- ▶ Anesthesia is injected so that the treatment becomes almost painless.
- ▶ All the decay is removed.
- ▶ Tooth is cleaned and shaped till the end of the roots.
- ▶ Cleaned and disinfected roots are filled with medicinal paste which will not affect the natural exfoliation process of the milk tooth. And crown portion of the tooth is filled with a restorative material.

- ▶ Then preformed Stainless Steel crown or Zirconia Ceramic crown is placed over the tooth.

#### Steps of RCT in ADULTS (permanent teeth):-

- ▶ First 3 steps of RCT are same as RCT done in children (milk teeth).
- ▶ Cleaned and disinfected roots are filled with inert material called as Gutta Percha.
- ▶ Crown portion of the tooth is filled with restorative material.
- ▶ Then the crown is placed over the tooth (metal, metal-ceramic or full ceramic crown)

#### WHY CROWN AFTER RCT?

- ▶ Crown gives additional strength and support to the tooth which it has lost due to decay.
- ▶ Improves mastication.
- ▶ Increases longevity of tooth.
- ▶ Decreases chances of reinfection.

#### POST RCT CARE

- ▶ One should not eat anything hard from the RC treated tooth, until it is secured with a crown.

#### RCT if done in right time can save a tooth from removal

#### PREVENTION AT HOME

1. Brushing twice a day with fluoridated tooth paste.
2. Floss in between the teeth to prevent food lodgment.
3. Use of a mouthwash as advised by a dentist.

#### AT DENTAL CLINIC:-

1. 6 monthly check up.
2. Preventive treatment- sealants.
3. Scaling and polishing.
4. Fluoride application.

However, if possible saving the natural tooth is best because nothing can function as efficiently as a NATURAL TOOTH.