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### ROOT CANAL TREATMENT (ENDODONTIC THERAPY/ RCT):

The root canal system are the hollow structures within a healthy tooth that contain nerve tissue, blood vessels and other cellular tissue, which nourish the tooth and gives it vitality and strength. The root canal system can become infected if decay grows big enough to invade it.

Other reasons that cause teeth to become non vital and necessitating root canal treatment are:

- Restorative work done on a tooth
- Age
- Gum diseases

During root canal treatment, the infected **contents** of the tooth is removed from the hollow structures within the tooth. The hollow structures are the pulp chamber and canals in the tooth root. Fine files and antibacterial rinses are used to obtain a decontaminated root canal system. The root canal system is then filled with a filling material. Once that has been done the broken tooth can be restored with a filling, inlay, onlay or a crown. All root canal treated teeth are non vital (dead teeth) and become brittle. Root canal treated molar and premolar teeth should be restored with a laboratory made onlay to reduce the risk of tooth fracture.

Root canal treated teeth can function many years – sometimes decades – in the mouth. If the root fractures, the tooth needs to be extracted. It then needs to be replaced with an implant or bridge. To restore function, looks and balance.