

Mississauga Dental Specialists

Braces Invisalign Teeth Gums & Implants

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Root Canal Retreatment

In some cases, root canal therapy fails to work as expected. The treated tooth might not heal properly or a patient might experience post-surgical complications that jeopardize the tooth. Root canal retreatment involves the removal of the previous packing material, the cleansing of the root canal system, and the re-packing and re-restoring of the tooth.

Root canal treatments and retreatments are a better alternative than extraction for most individuals. If a tooth has good bone support and sound remaining tooth structure, it stands a good chance of being saved. Opting for root canal retreatment can be far less expensive than the alternatives. Dental implants, extensive bridgework and the creation of aesthetically pleasing prosthetic teeth cost far more than working with the natural tooth. They also require maintenance and feel less natural than a "real" tooth.

What does root canal retreatment involve?

On the day of the retreatment procedure a local anesthetic will be administered, unless another type of anesthetic has been selected. The affected tooth is isolated with a rubber dam. The dam protects the tooth during treatment from bacteria and saliva. The amount the dentist can do within a single appointment will much depend on the complexity of the treatment.

The first step in a root canal retreatment is to gain access to the inner tooth. If a crown and post have been placed, these may be removed.

Next, filling material and obstructions that block the root canals will be removed. This removal is conducted using tiny instruments, which are also used to clean and reshape the root canals. X-rays may be taken to ensure that the roots are thoroughly clean. If this part of the treatment proves to be complex, medicated packing material will be applied, and the rest of the cleansing procedure will be done at the next visit.

When the dentist is confident that the root canal system is completely clean, gutta-percha is used to pack the space. This rubbery material seals the canals to prevent bacterial invasion. Finally, a temporary filling is applied to tooth. At a later date, the color-matched permanent filling and crown will be placed.

If you have questions or concerns about endodontic procedures, please contact our endodontist.