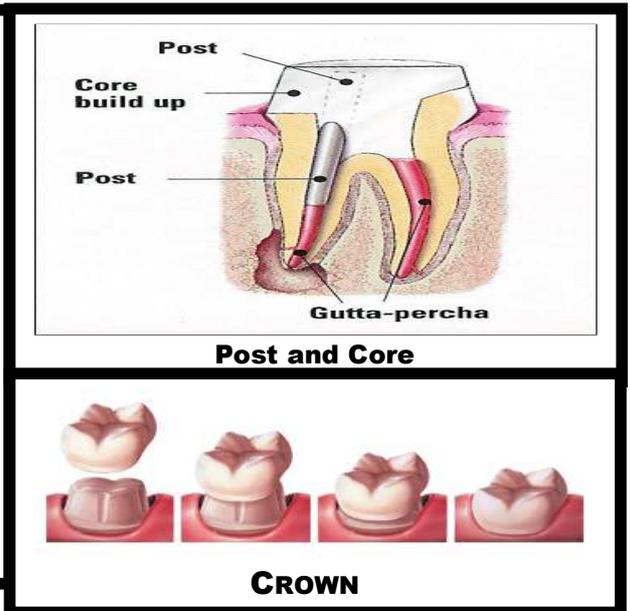
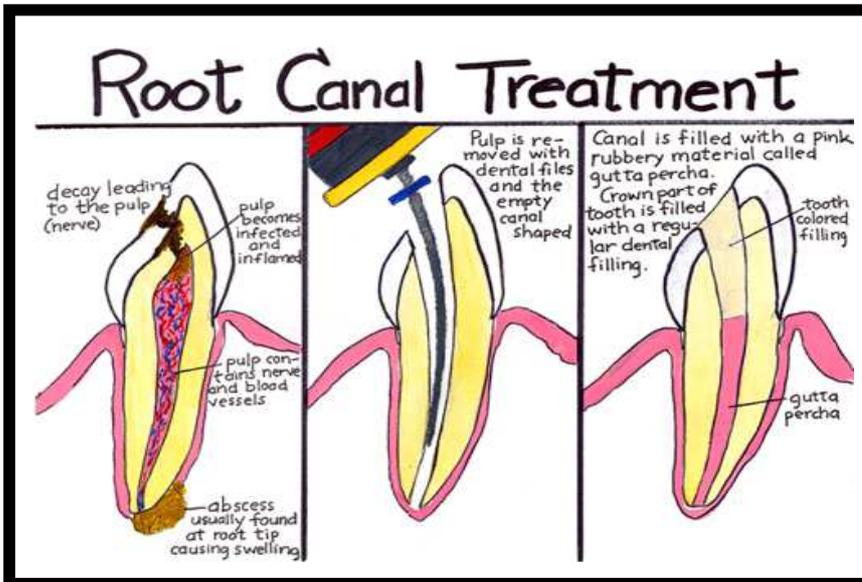


# ROOT CANAL, POST & CORE, and CROWN



## What Are the Signs That a Root Canal Is Needed?

A tooth's nerve and pulp can become irritated, inflamed, and infected due to deep decay, and/or large fillings, a crack or chip in the tooth, or trauma to the face. Sometimes no symptoms are present; however, signs you may need a root canal include: severe toothache pain upon chewing or application of pressure, prolonged sensitivity/pain to heat or cold temperatures, a darkening of the tooth, Swelling and tenderness in the nearby gums, or a persistent or recurring pimple on the gums.

## Why Does Tooth Pulp Need to Be Removed?

When a tooth's nerve tissue or pulp is damaged, it breaks down and bacteria begin to multiply within the pulp chamber. The bacteria and other decayed debris can cause an infection or abscessed tooth. An abscess is a pus-filled pocket that forms at the end of the roots of the tooth. An abscess occurs when the infection spreads all the way past the ends of the roots of the tooth.

## What is a Root Canal?

This procedure usually requires one to two visits. A root canal is an endodontic procedure used to repair and save a tooth that is badly decayed or becomes infected. Root canal therapy cannot be guaranteed 100% and carries a 10 - 15% failure rate. During a root canal procedure, the nerve and pulp are removed and the inside of the tooth is cleaned and sealed then the space it occupied is filled with a special filling material called gutta percha. Finally a temporary or permanent filling will be placed on the crown part of the tooth depending on the remaining strength, stability, and structure of the tooth. *Please be aware that a root canal, permanent filling, post & core, crown lengthening, bridge, and a crown are considered separate procedures and each has its own service charge.*

## What is a Post & Core?

This procedure usually requires one visit. A Post and Core is a procedure required to rebuild and strengthen a tooth that had root canal treatment. It adds the proper support necessary to restore a tooth with a cap or crown. The post itself is a metallic or reinforced fiber structure that is placed within the root of a tooth that has had a root canal. In placing a post, we remove some of this root canal filling material creating a space. The space that is created is used to anchor the post within the root of the tooth. A core is built from filling material around the part of the post that sticks out of the root after the post is cemented into the root. The core is shaped so that it will anchor and retain a crown.

## What is a Crown Lengthening?

This procedure usually requires one visit. Crown lengthening is done when a tooth needs to be fixed and your dentist needs to expose more of the tooth to place a filling or crown. Sometimes, not enough of the tooth sticks out above the gum to support a filling or crown. This can happen when a tooth breaks off at the gum line or when a crown or filling falls out of a tooth and there is decay underneath.

## What is a Crown?

This procedure usually requires two visits. Dental crowns are tooth-shaped coverings made of metal, ceramic, or porcelain to restore strength and eliminate discomfort. The type of crown utilized during your dental crown procedure will depend on the recommendation of your dentist. Dental fillings do not provide the same longevity, durability, or protection for teeth that dental crowns do. There is some risk associated with choosing the placement of a dental filling over a crown in that your tooth may break sometime in the future, possibly even irreparably. For teeth that are badly damaged, dental crowns can be an effective treatment option. Typically, the crown procedure is completed in two stages. During the first visit, the dentist removes portions of your natural tooth's structure to accommodate the dental crown. An impression is made and sent to the lab, where your dental crown is created in about two weeks. A temporary crown will also be placed to ensure the most natural look and feel. When you return to the office the temporary crown is removed and your new, custom dental crown is securely bonded in place. After a short time, you will experience a restored confidence in your smile.

## Will my Crown or bridge ever need to be replaced?

While a crown or bridge can last a lifetime, they do sometimes come loose or fall out. A crown or bridge can lose its support if the teeth or bone holding it in place are damaged by dental disease. To prevent damage to your crown or bridge, avoid chewing hard foods, ice or other hard objects. The most important step you can take to ensure the longevity of your crown or bridge is to practice good oral hygiene.