



The Whole Tooth



September 2010

Volume 1, Issue 3

From the Dentist

I hope this newsletter finds you all doing well! I am sure we are all looking forward to the things this time of year brings: school starting, football, the State Fair and most importantly cooler temperatures.

In this issue, we would like to answer many of the common questions patients ask concerning root canal treatments. Believe it or not, root canals are not as terrible as they are portrayed in the horror stories may have heard! Modern techniques and anesthesia used today have greatly improved the procedure, allowing patients to feel comfortable throughout the treatment process.

In addition we would like to inform you of the schedule of tooth development for both children and young adults.

I have recently been introduced to the amazing world of social networking and have created a Facebook page for myself and the office. In the coming weeks I will be posting a blog to keep you informed of various dental procedures as well as my flying expeditions. I look forward to seeing you all in the office during the coming months.

Yours in good dental health

Dr. Charles Flowers

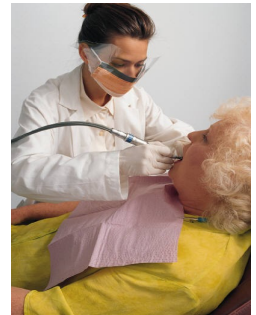


Schedule and keep your Regular Dental Appointments

Making regular dental appointments, and keeping them is key to a healthy mouth and may even contribute to an overall healthier body. The Academy of General Dentistry recommends people of all ages schedule dental exams every six months– or according to their dentists' or hygienists' advice. Even if you no longer have your natural teeth, it's important to see your dentist for regular dental exams to maintain oral health.

During a dental exam, the dentist or hygienist will:

- Evaluate your overall health and oral hygiene
- Check your bite or jaw for problems
- Remove stains or deposits on your teeth
- If you have dentures, examine how they fit and make any necessary adjustments
- Identify your risk of tooth and root decay, and gum or bone disease.
- Evaluate your need for tooth restoration using fillings or crowns, or tooth replacement.
- Review proper brushing and flossing techniques
- Take oral x-rays or, if necessary, do other diagnostic procedures



The best way to achieve and maintain good oral health is to visit your dentist on a regular basis. You can prevent any potential dental problems from arising or worsening by remembering to schedule and keeping your dental appointments. Call today to make your next appointment!



As another way to stay connected with our patients we have created a Facebook page.

We invite you to find us on Facebook and “become a fan” to get up to date information on our various promotions and stay informed of the latest dental technologies.



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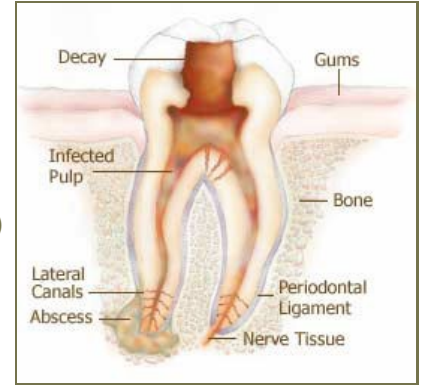
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Root Canal: Q & A

Why would I need root canal therapy?

A root canal is necessary when a tooth is compromised to the extent that the pulp chamber inside the tooth becomes inflamed and or infected. The pulp chamber is the innermost part of a tooth that contains the nerve fibers and blood vessels. Deep decay, extensive dental work, trauma to the tooth, a crack, periodontal (gum) disease or extreme wear can lead to pulp damage. If left untreated, it can cause pain and lead to an abscess.



What are the signs indicating a root canal is necessary?

Symptoms of an inflamed or infected pulp can include pain, hot and or cold sensitivity, tenderness to touch or chewing, discoloration of the tooth and swelling. However, the pulp can deteriorate without causing any symptoms.

How does a root canal treatment work?

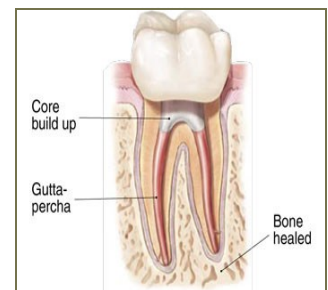
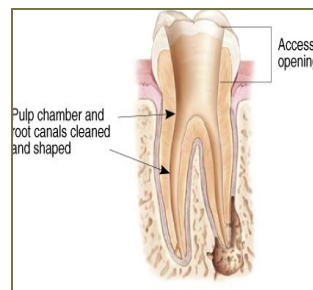
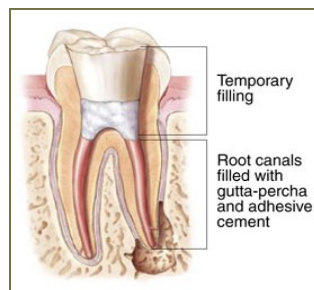
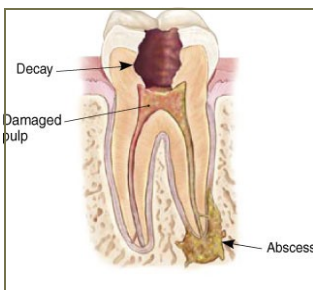
The inflamed or infected pulp is removed, the root canals are disinfected and permanently sealed to prevent re-infection. After a root canal treatment, the pain resides and the damaged bone surrounding the tooth heals and the tooth is saved.

Will I feel pain during the procedure?

With modern techniques and anesthetics, most patients report that they are comfortable during the procedure. Following the root canal treatment, it is normal to have some sensitivity for a few days, especially if there was pain of infection before the procedure. However, if you have severe pain or pressure that lasts more than a few days, contact your dentist.

What can I expect during a root canal procedure?

- After the tooth is numb, a small opening is made in the top of the tooth into the pulp chamber
- The pulp is removed, and the root canals are cleaned and shaped using endodontic files
- The canals are filled with a rubber-like material called Gutta Percha to seal the tooth, preventing re-infection.
- A temporary filling is placed to close the opening. (if patient is to return for permanent restoration)
- Restore the tooth with a permanent restoration, such as a crown or filling to prevent the tooth from breaking.





Tooth Development

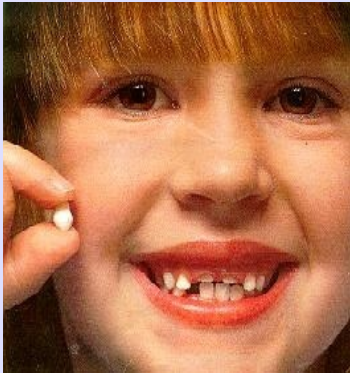


Children have two sets of teeth, primary (baby) teeth and permanent (adult) teeth. All teeth are important for speech, chewing and give the face structure. In addition, the primary teeth help children develop the muscles necessary for chewing and also act as placeholders for the permanent teeth, which erupt later in life.

The first primary tooth will usually erupt around the age of 6 months. After which, the parents should brush the child's teeth twice daily to prevent tooth decay. Generally, at 2 years of age, all 20 primary teeth will erupt. Parents should continue to brush the child's teeth until he/she is able to avoid swallowing the toothpaste.



One common misconception of parents is that primary teeth do not require dental care since they are temporary and will eventually be replaced by permanent teeth. If a primary tooth is lost before the scheduled time of eruption of its permanent successor, it is likely the space will reduce or even close due to drifting of near by teeth, which can cause the permanent tooth to grow in crooked.



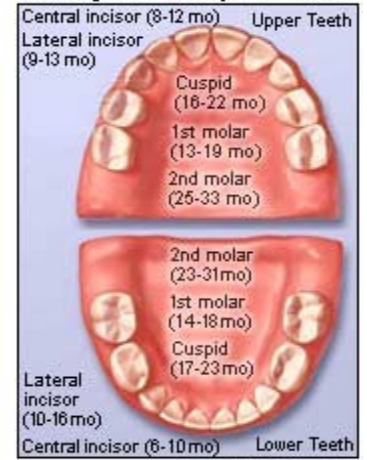
The primary teeth are lost between 7 and 12 years of age and are replaced with permanent teeth. This phase of development is typically referred to as the "mixed dentition" stage because children have both primary and permanent teeth.

There are a total of 32 permanent teeth; the additional 12 teeth will erupt behind the primary teeth and are called the molars. All permanent teeth erupt by the age of 14, with the exception of the "wisdom teeth" or third molars that erupt between the age of 17 and 25. Because third molars are so far back in the mouth, they are not necessary for chewing and are

often difficult to properly clean. Your dentist may suggest their removal to prevent potential complications.

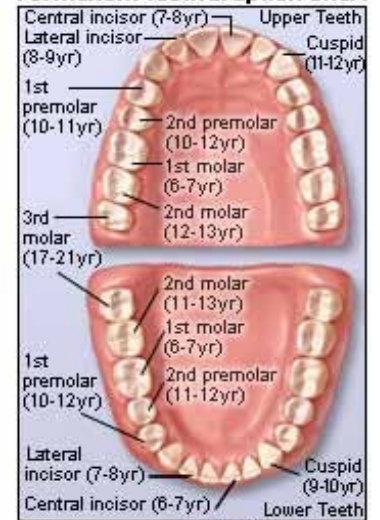
* Heredity and other factors influence the approximate age of primary and permanent tooth eruption.

Primary Teeth Eruption Chart



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Permanent Teeth Eruption Chart



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Kids Corner



Dental Health- Word Search

M	D	E	N	T	I	S	T	U	K	D
D	T	H	Q	V	C	A	V	I	T	Y
E	E	Y	D	S	V	W	I	H	P	B
N	E	G	N	R	G	U	M	S	L	D
T	T	I	S	M	I	L	E	R	A	E
A	H	E	A	L	T	H	Y	S	Q	C
L	C	N	L	C	H	I	P	G	U	A
R	S	E	N	F	L	O	S	S	E	Y

Word Bank

Cavity	Gums	Teeth
Chip	Healthy	Smile
Decay	Hygiene	Floss
Dental	Plaque	Dentist

