

Short Write-up on Endodontics

Endodontics is a specialty of [dentistry](#) that deals with the [tooth pulp](#) and tissues surrounding the root of a [tooth](#). The pulp (containing [nerves](#), blood vessels as well as lymphatic tissue and fibrous tissue) can become diseased or injured and thus is unable to repair itself. The pulp then dies and endodontic treatment is required.

Endodontists are [dentists](#) who have specialized in this field. Typically they have completed an additional 2-3 years of training following dental school. They usually specialize and limit their practice to root canal therapy and root canal surgery. Patients requiring root canal therapy are either referred by their general dentists to the endodontist or are self referred.

The most common procedure done in endodontics is [root-canal therapy](#). This procedure aims to save a tooth that would otherwise be extracted (pulled) due to infection caused by decay (a cavity in the tooth), a large filling, or trauma to the tooth. Root canal therapy involves the removal of diseased pulp tissue inside the tooth (the area inside the tooth that becomes infected due to the aforementioned reasons). The aim of treatment is to remove irreversibly inflamed or necrotic pulp tissue before infection sets in (or after it has already set in). When the pulp tissue becomes infected, caused by [bacteria](#) from inside the tooth, the infection can leak out of the tooth's root and make the surrounding [bone](#) ill and painful or cause an [abscess](#) to form. Once the diseased pulp tissues are removed, the body's defense system can then repair the damage created by disease. Usually, this will require 1-2 visits to your endodontist.

Other procedures practiced in endodontics include incision for drainage and periradicular [surgery](#). These treatments are needed in cases of [abscesses](#), problematic tooth [anatomy](#), and physical knocks/trauma that change the physiology of the dental pulp (e.g. Tooth gets displaced partially or completely from its socket).

In the latter, a significantly better outcome is usually derived when the traumatized tooth is placed in a special media which keeps the fragile cells on the root surface alive whilst en route to see the dentist. Hank's Balance Salt Solution (HBSS), available commercially as Save-A-Tooth Preservation System (www.mytoothcaretips.com) makes such emergency dental situations manageable, and is highly recommended for schools, sports facilities and even in homes.

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Practice Restricted to Endodontics