



Root Canal vs. Implant

Which should I choose?

A controversy in the dental community currently exists concerning the success rate of root canal therapy when compared with that of implant treatment. Saving your natural tooth should always be your first choice when dental care is needed. Nothing, not even the most advanced bridges and implants, can truly replace your natural tooth. If your dentist recommends extracting your tooth, ask if it can be saved with an endodontic procedure, also known as root canal treatment. Endodontic treatment removes the injured pulp (soft inner tissue) of your tooth and fills and seals the space. Your tooth is then restored and can function just like any other tooth for the rest of your life, ensuring comfortable chewing and a natural appearance.

If your tooth cannot be saved - and some cannot - you may consider replacements such as a bridge or dental implant. Your options may depend upon the condition of surrounding teeth and bone structure. That being said, the success rates of both procedures are very comparable, even with the inaccuracy of the definitions. The goal of root canal therapy is to preserve your natural teeth, implants are replacing missing teeth or replacing teeth which are not able to be saved by root canal therapy.

Having root canal therapy does not prevent you from having implant therapy, if needed in the future; however, implant therapy does preclude you from any procedure that would save your natural tooth.

Nothing functions as well as the tooth that you were born with!