In the past, a root filled tooth would often darken after treatment. However, with modern techniques this does not usually happen. If there is any discolouration, there are several treatments available to restore the natural appearance.

Root canal treatment (also called endodontics) is needed when the blood or nerve supply of the tooth (known as the pulp) is infected through decay or injury. You may not feel any pain in the early stages of the infection. In some cases, your tooth could darken in colour, which may mean that the nerve of the tooth has died (or is dying). This would need root canal treatment.

**What is root canal treatment?**

Root canal treatment is needed if the pulp of the tooth becomes infected, the infection may spread through the root canal system of the tooth. This may eventually lead to an abscess. An abscess is an inflamed area in which pus collects and can cause swelling of the tissues around the tooth. The systems of an abscess can range from a dull ache to severe pain and the tooth may be tender when you bite. If root canal treatment is not carried out, the infection will spread and the tooth may need to be taken out.

**Does it hurt?**

No. Usually, a local anaesthetic is used and it should feel no different to having an ordinary filling done. There may be some tenderness afterwards but this should gradually get less over time.

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**What does it involve?**

The aim of the treatment is to remove all infection from the root canal. The root is then cleaned and filled to prevent any further infection. Root canal treatment is a skilled and time-consuming procedure. Most courses of treatment will involve two or more visits to your dentist.

- At the first appointment, the infected pulp is removed and any abscesses can be drained. The root canal is then cleaned and shaped ready for a filling. A temporary filling is put in and the tooth is left to settle.
- The tooth will be checked at a later visit and when all the infection has cleared, the tooth will be permanently filled.

**What will my tooth look like after the treatment?**

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**Root canal treatment**

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Root canal treatment is usually very successful. However, if the infection comes back, the treatment can sometimes be repeated.

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For professional dental services throughout Camden; Located in the heart of Camden, Ivy House Dental Practice provide a full range of services from general dentistry to a range of cosmetic treatments. With years of experience, our team of dentists are highly skilled and can help get to the root of your problem. We provide the following services to patients across Camden, London:

- Check ups
- Root canals
- Fillings
- Extractions
- Orthodontic
- Teeth whitening
- Invisalign
- Crowns
- Dentures
- Bridges
- Veneers
- Implants

What if i don’t have the treatment?
The alternative is to have the tooth extracted. Once the pulp is destroyed it cannot heal, and it is not recommended to leave an infected tooth in the mouth.

Will the tooth be safe after treatment?
Yes. However, as a dead tooth is more brittle, it may be necessary to restore the tooth with a crown to provide extra support and strength to the tooth.

What about aftercare?
Root treated teeth should be treated just the same as any other tooth. Remember to clean your teeth for two minutes, twice a day with fluoride toothpaste. cut down on sugary foods and drink, and keep them only to mealtimes if possible. See your dentist as often as they recommend for regular checks.