

## THE BENEFITS OF ROOT CANAL TREATMENT

The **European Society of Endodontology (ESE)** has recently received messages from dentists, endodontists and endodontic associations from around the world expressing concern over the movie distributed on Netflix that puts forward unfounded and malicious claims that root canal treatment is a cause for several systemic conditions. Since its release, the movie has been accompanied by rumours spreading on social media that also allege root canal treatment is associated with adverse health effects. As a professional group representing the discipline in Europe and beyond the **ESE** is naturally concerned about these allegations and the misinformation that is being disseminated.

Dental disease and treatment are occasionally blamed for systemic diseases and conditions for which there is no clear aetiology or cure. Endodontic infections and treatment procedures are no exception.

The **ESE** is fully engaged in research on endodontic infections and their relationship to general health, and collates scientific information on the subject in congresses, meetings and publications. Root canal treatment is an important dental procedure to alleviate pain and save teeth. There is universal agreement in the scientific and clinical communities that root canal treatment is an effective and predictable cure for pulp and periapical infections. In fact, it represents one of the best-documented and safest procedures for preventing and curing oral infections, and thus prevent and treat rather than cause systemic complications.

Extraction of teeth with pulp and periapical disease that can be retained by root canal treatment is inappropriate in most cases. Furthermore, extraction and the placement of an implant is a poor substitute for saving teeth through root canal treatment. Implants are valuable when teeth are unavoidably lost but they are not indicated for the replacement of teeth that are saveable through appropriate endodontic and restorative treatment.

Current scientific and clinical evidence have clearly shown the advantages, safety and value of root canal treatment. Dental practitioners and the general public should not be distracted from accepting root canal treatment as a well-documented procedure, based on unsolicited misinformation that is potentially dangerous and harmful.

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