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To the root of the problem

"Get a root canal -- or your roots dyed" [news story, Oct. 4] discusses an emerging trend in dentistry to include other cosmetic services during treatment. Although these additional services may allow some patients to feel more comfortable, the article perpetuates the myth that root canals are painful.

All too often, this misperception prevents people from seeking necessary dental care. In actuality, new technology and techniques used by endodontists, the specialists who perform root canals, have rendered root canals virtually pain-free. In short, root canals don't cause pain, they relieve it.

John S. Olmsted, D.D.S., president, American Association of Endodontists