Evolution of the Root Canal

**1700’s**
Standard dental practice was to pull natural teeth instead of saving them.

**1800’s**
X-Rays became standard practice, allowing endodontists to view areas of the tooth they could not normally see, making treatment faster and more accurate.

**1900’s**
Local anesthesia is introduced in dentistry and reduces pain for the procedure.

**1910’s**
Primitive root canals consisted of cauterizing, or searing the tooth with a hot iron, and covering it with foil.

**1920’s**
Gutta-percha, a natural substance, is introduced as a filling material and continues to be used today.

**1930’s**
First graduate endodontic program opened in 1950 at Temple University, giving students two additional years of advanced training.

**1940’s**
The American Association of Endodontists (AAE) was founded in Chicago to educate the public and the dental profession about the specialty.

**1950’s**
Endodontists began using operating microscopes to magnify the tooth surface up to 32 times, making treatment even more precise and effective.

**1960’s**
Nickel Titanium rotary instrumentation makes root canal treatment faster and more predictable.

**1970’s**
Digital radiography, or digital imaging, was introduced to endodontic offices, making treatment safer and faster.

**1980’s**
Ultrasonic instrumentation is used routinely in endodontic surgery, allowing root structures to be preserved.

**1990’s**
X-Rays became standard practice, allowing endodontists to view areas of the tooth they could not normally see, making treatment faster and more accurate.

**2000’s**
Today, thanks to these innovations, root canal treatment is virtually painless and can be as routine as having a cavity filled.

For more information visit [www.rootcanalspecialists.org](http://www.rootcanalspecialists.org)