

Boone Endodontics (www.booneendo.com) recently celebrated Root Canal Awareness Week by holding educational events for local dentists and their team members. The purpose of Root Canal Awareness Week is to educate the public and general dentists about root canal treatment.

Root canal treatment helps to save teeth that would otherwise have to be pulled. In fact, nearly 15 million teeth are saved with root canal treatment each year.

The term “root canal” tends to conjure up painful dental office images. Factually, with modern techniques, there is no need to “dread” root canal treatment. Thanks to advancements in endodontics – the branch of dentistry that specializes in this treatment – this procedure is often quick and painless.

Root canal treatment involves removing the pulp of the tooth – the soft inner tissue containing nerves and blood vessels that have been damaged, usually due to deep decay. An Endodontist cleans, fills and seals the canals. The tooth then has a permanent restoration placed for protection. This procedure saves the tooth so the patient does not need more extensive, and expensive, dental treatment or dentures.

The perception of root canals being painful began decades ago but with modern technologies and anesthetics, root canal treatment today is no more uncomfortable than having a filling placed. It is the intention of Root Canal Awareness Week to bring this reality to the public.