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Advances In Technology Making Root Canals Less Painful

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(TV-5) -- Children and adults alike used to fear the dentist drilling, pulling and scraping away, but technology has made many procedures easier all the way around.

Do the words "root canal" bring thoughts of pain to mind? For many they do, but for 73-year-old George Stewart, it's all in how you look at it. "I think for people, it's all in their mind, and if you're mind is set that way, it's going to bother you," says Stewart.

Endodontist Jeffery Dwan agrees. On average, he performs nearly 40 root canals each week. He says advancements in technology have made the procedure easier on everyone involved. "What's good for one is usually good for both," says Dr. Dwan.

Root canals are not just done on older patients; they're also done on younger patients with the ultimate goal of saving a tooth from being pulled.

"Most of the time in a younger patient it is due to trauma. Broken teeth... slip and fall for many. Those injuries come from sports like football and hockey or other outside activities," said Dr. Dwan.

Dr. Dwan says no matter how the trauma happens, the fix is fairly simple. "It's very similar to having a regular filling done now with the technology that we have, and that's something everyone can smile about."

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