



ROOT CANAL TREATMENT - Post-op Instructions

Root canal treatment is often a straightforward procedure to relieve dental pain and save your tooth. Patients typically need a root canal when there is inflammation or infection in the roots of a tooth. During root canal treatment we carefully remove the pulp inside the tooth, clean, and disinfect the canals. A medicated filling is placed to seal the space and insure healing.

Will I have pain after the treatment?

The diseased nerve of your tooth has been cleaned out and replaced with a medicine that will help the tooth heal. If this tooth has been causing you some pain before the treatment, the root canal procedure should keep the tooth from hurting. It is important to know, however, that you may have some tenderness in the area for a day or two following treatment.

There may still be some infection and/or inflammation in the bone around the tooth. This can cause pain, especially when chewing. When necessary, antibiotics will be given to help clear up the infection. We recommend taking an anti-inflammatory such as ibuprofen or aspirin to help with any inflammation or pain. If pain persists for several days or is severe, please contact our office.

Is a Root Canal all I will need on my tooth?

When a tooth has had root canal therapy, the tooth becomes more brittle. This means that the tooth is more likely to crack or break. We recommend that a crown be placed on the tooth to prevent the tooth from breaking, especially if you have already had a large filling before the procedure. If you cannot afford this option, please disclose that information to our wonderful staff and we will try to accommodate your financial situation the best we can. Please be aware that if an alternate restoration is completed such as a filling, there is greater potential for the restoration to crack. Keep in mind that we will only recommend the best treatment to ensure a successful restoration, we consider your oral health to be most important.

Will I need to change my diet?

To help minimize the likelihood of breaking the tooth, a soft diet and eating on the opposite side of your mouth is recommended until a permanent restoration can be placed.

Will I need to come back?

If root canal therapy was not completed on the tooth you probably went home with a temporary filling in your tooth.

This filling will only last a few weeks, so it is VITAL to schedule your return visit to complete the root canal. Until the root canal is finished and restoration is placed the tooth can become very painful, infected and/break. Please be sure to keep your follow up appointment as it is key in saving your tooth.

RX:

Thank you for entrusting us with your care.