



Instructions following root canal therapy (Endodontics)

Discomfort should be expected following the procedure for the first week to ten days and is usually worse the first 24 hours. If the infection is severe or the tooth was very painful prior to the procedure, the discomfort will last longer. Analgesics (Tylenol, Motrin, and Advil) are usually sufficient. Take your medication as prescribed and if the discomfort does not reduce after two days, contact the office. If you have been given a prescription for antibiotic medication, begin taking as directed immediately following the procedure.

Swelling: Contact the office **if swelling develops or does not reduce.** Complete the antibiotic medication if one was prescribed.

Eating: Avoid chewing on the tooth. If the tooth contacts the opposing tooth when you bite your teeth together or grind your teeth together (without food), contact the office immediately. The doctor can adjust the temporary filling in the tooth so that the contact is minimized.

Temporary filling: The soft filling in the middle of the tooth may chip off or wash away. If this is not trapping food or disturbing your tongue **AND** if your next visit is scheduled soon after this occurs (within one week), you can have it corrected at your next visit. If the root canal treatment is completed and you are waiting for your restorative appointment for the post buildup and crown, contact the office if the temporary filling has come out to have it replaced. It is important that the finished root canal not become re-infected through possible leakage of bacteria and food.

Completion of treatment may require additional visits. It is essential that you not miss your next scheduled appointment so that the doctor does not have to repeat the treatment completed today. Also, If completion is delayed too long, the procedure may have to be restarted requiring additional time and cost.

If you have failed to return for the recommended visits and have allowed too much time lapse in between your visits and the root canal treatment must be started over again, you will be responsible for all previous charges and all additional charges involved in the completion of the root canal treatment.

Prosthetic treatment (crown) is recommended shortly following the completion of the root canal treatment. Since the remaining tooth structure is generally compromised and fragile, it is important that the tooth is protected as soon as possible with a crown. Failure to do so may result in the further breakdown of the tooth and possibly loss of the tooth. Protect the investment you have made in saving your tooth by promptly scheduling your appointment for restorative care.

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