



ROOT CANAL
POST OPERATIVE
INSTRUCTIONS

1. You have just has a root canal to treat a tooth with a dead or infected nerve that has or is highly likely to cause a painful abscess.
2. Many times a root canal is performed on a tooth that is infected and or painful before the procedure. No treatment is magic. If you were in pain prior to treatment, some discomfort after treatment is to be expected.
3. Some post-operative sensitivity may occur for the first 24 to 48 hours after a root canal procedure. Mild pain relievers such as aspirin, Tylenol, or Advil, should relieve this discomfort. Patients experiencing discomfort not relieved by mild pain relievers or experiencing discomfort for more than two days should call the office.
4. People bite differently when they are numb. Your bite was adjusted to the best of our ability while you were anesthetized. If, when the feeling returns, the bite feels incorrect, you should call for a 'bite adjustment'. This is important because an incorrect bite may cause a toothache.
5. Avoid chewing hard or sticky foods on the treated tooth until the final restoration is placed. The tooth has been weakened by the root canal and will be fragile until the final restoration is in place. If the tooth has a provisional crown, sticky foods may prematurely dislodge it. If this should happen, rinse the crown and reinsert it. Then call for the first available appointment to have the provisional crown re-cemented.
6. Clean around your root canal treated tooth as you normally would. When you floss, avoid vigorous flossing around a provisional crown. Instead floss gently between the teeth and then remove the floss laterally.
7. A final, reinforcing restoration will be necessary to prevent this tooth from fracture. You should make arrangements to protect a tooth weakened by a root canal as soon as possible. Delay may result in tooth fracture, additional procedures, and or loss of the tooth.

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