

Root Canal Therapy

Instructions Following Root Canal Therapy

What to Expect:

1. It is not uncommon for a tooth to be uncomfortable or even exhibit a dull ache immediately after receiving root-canal therapy. This should subside within one week.
2. Your tooth will be sensitive to biting pressure and may even appear to feel loose. This feeling is a result of the sensitivity of nerve-endings in the areas at the end of the root, where we cleaned, irrigated and placed filler and sealer material. This feeling will be short-lived.
3. You may feel a depression or rough area (on the top of a back tooth or the back of a front tooth) where our access was made. There is a soft, temporary material in that area, which may wear away to some degree before your next visit.
4. You **MUST** return to our office to complete the restoration of the tooth following the root canal therapy. The tooth **MUST** be built up with either a CORE or a POST & CORE, & a CROWN. If this is not done, the tooth **WILL** fracture with possible irreparable results!

What to Do:

1. If we have **not** given you a prescription for pain-relief, we recommend you take something within one hour of leaving our office, to get the medication into your blood system before the anesthesia begins to subside. Generally, one dose is needed. We recommend an anti-inflammatory medicine -- ibuprofen (Nuprin, Advil, Motrin) 800-mg (four tablets). If you have a medical condition or stomach disorder that precludes this medicine, then acetaminophen (Tylenol) is a substitute. Aspirin & aspirin-containing products are *not* advisable, as they tend to increase bleeding from the area that was treated.
2. If you have been taking an antibiotic prescribed by us, please continue until it is completed.
3. Whenever possible, try to chew on the opposite side from the tooth we have just treated, until you have the REAL CROWN placed. Until then, your tooth is very weak and could fracture with possible irreparable results.

4. Please avoid chewing gum, caramels or other sticky, soft candy, which could dislodge the temporary material or fracture your tooth.

Please Call Us If:

1. You experience symptoms more intense or of longer duration than those described above.
2. You notice significant post-operative swelling.
3. The temporary material is dislodged, feels loose or feels 'high' when biting.
4. Your tooth fractures or breaks.
5. You have ANY questions at all.

Please schedule your next appointment for the core & crown preparation immediately.

If you have any questions about today's treatment, please call them at: 202-244-1601.