

POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS CARE FOLLOWING ROOT CANAL THERAPY

There are usually very few post-operative problems following root canal therapy. Endodontic treatment (root canal) is necessary when the nerve of the tooth becomes inflamed or infected. The inflammation or infection can have a variety of causes including deep decay or a crack or chip in the tooth.

SENSITIVITY: Root canal procedures are performed to relieve the pain of toothaches and sensitivity caused by pulp inflammation or infection. For the first few days after treatment, your tooth may feel sensitive. This is normal, especially if there was pain or an infection beforehand. Usually over the counter medications can help relieve some discomfort. Your tooth may feel slightly different from your other teeth for a few days. Some soreness is common, however, if you have severe pain, swelling or pressure that lasts more than a few days, please call the office.

OCCLUSION: Once the root canal tooth has been treated, a temporary or permanent restoration will be bonded to the tooth. A crown is usually recommended to support the natural tooth so in the future it will not break. Due to local anesthesia to numb the area, you may not be able to tell if the bite feels normal. Wait until the anesthesia wears off and if your occlusion (bite) is not comfortable please call the office for it to be adjusted. If your bite is not correct and does not get corrected you could break the filling or tooth. It is not uncommon for the new restoration or crown to need a slight adjustment.

CHEWING: You have been given local anesthesia to numb the area. Please do not chew in that area until the feeling returns. When you are "numb" you cannot feel if you are biting your lip or cheek.