

Barrett D. Straub DDS SC.

Endodontic Treatment (Root Canal) - Post-Operative Instructions

1. Root canal treatment can take 1,2, or more appointments, depending on the conditions present in each case. During that time any of the following symptoms may be present: sensitivity to hot or cold, sensitivity to pressure, or swelling.
2. Some tenderness can be expected after each appointment. It is best to start taking either an over-the-counter pain medicine (Advil 400 - 600mg., or Extra Strength Tylenol), or the pain medicine prescribed to you. These are most effective if taken before the office anesthetic wears off.
3. If an antibiotic has been prescribed to you, be certain to take it as directed. Be certain to finish all the pills regardless of how well you feel.
4. If swelling or pain is present after 2 days of your last appointment or is increasing, your medication may need to be adjusted. Contact the office immediately.
5. If your bite feels high or if pain occurs with light biting, your bite may to be adjusted due to inflammation around the tooth. This is a short appointment. Please call the office immediately.
6. If the root canal procedure is done over more than one visit, a temporary will be placed in the tooth. This restoration is not very durable and is prone to breakage or dislodgment if not treated carefully. Avoid sticky foods (gum, taffy, caramels, etc.), and hard foods (chewing ice, nuts and hard candy). Do NOT floss around the temporary.
7. The tooth is often very weak during therapy. Avoid biting on hard objects until the tooth is properly restored with a filling or crown after therapy is completed.
8. Hot food or beverage can be harmful to anesthetized tissues. Please avoid drinking hot coffee, etc., until the numbness wears off.
9. Should you have greater than expected sensitivity, discomfort on biting, if your temporary filling becomes loose or broken, please call the office immediately.