

Root Canal Procedure and Post-op Instructions

Description of the Procedure:

- The purpose of the root canal is to preserve a dying or dead tooth. This may be required due to trauma, decay, periodontal disease, and on occasion no apparent reason.
- An access hole will be made through the chewing surface of a back tooth or through the tongue side surface of an anterior (front) tooth. Small instruments are used to remove the dying dead nerve of the tooth. A medicine is placed in the canals to kill any bacteria. The canals are then sealed and filled with an inert-rubber-based material. Occasionally a pin or post may need to be placed to help strengthen the tooth depending on the amount of tooth structure available. *Once the canals are filled a final filling or crown will be required to preserve and protect the remaining tooth structure.*
- The root canal procedure is usually completed in one visit, which may take 1 – 2 hours.
 - One visit appt – The complete removal of the nerve in the tooth will be done and materials placed in the canals to be sealed off. *In some cases, the final restoration of the tooth is also possible at this visit. Your doctor will let you know if this is an option for you.*
 - Two visit appt – The first visit the nerve is removed and medicine is placed to kill bacteria. A temp filling will be placed. The second visit consists of filling the canals. *In some cases, the final restoration of the tooth is also possible at this visit. Your doctor will let you know if this is an option for you.*
 - Third visit appt – The final restoration will be completed or started. Should your tooth need a crown it takes two visits to complete. Options will vary depending on the needs and location of your tooth. (Filling, Build Up, Post Core Build Up, Crown and cementation of the Crown)

After the Root Canal:

- Always watch for swelling, if the area feels hot, or throbbing please contact the office 720-851-7069. If needed we can prescribe the appropriate medication.
- Soreness around the tip of the root is very common after this procedure. Taking Ibuprofen or Tylenol should help with any soreness.
- Regarding Prescriptions:
 - If your Dr. prescribed an antibiotic, please be sure that you take it to completion.
 - Normally Ibuprofen or Tylenol is all you will need to relieve your discomfort.
 - In some cases your Dr. may need to prescribe a stronger medication for pain.