

ENDODONTIC TREATMENT

(Root Canal Therapy)

Endodontic treatment was performed on you today. This was done to repair your damaged and infected tooth. You may need to schedule another appointment to complete the root canal. Even after the root canal is done, your tooth will still be in need of treatment and care.

What Was Done?

Your tooth may have been abscessed, broken beyond easy repair, continuously uncomfortable, or traumatized. All of these problems are complex and require extensive treatment to save the tooth. Small files removed the blood and nerve supply of your tooth. The tooth canals were sterilized, filled, and sealed. This had to be done to prevent bacteria from getting to the tooth and causing further damage.

Temporary Fillings

A temporary filling may have been placed in your tooth to help the seal. This must stay in place until the tooth is completely treated. “Baby” your root canal: avoid sticky, hard, and crunchy foods. If your filling happens to fall out, call our office.

Numbness

Most likely your mouth will still be numb after your appointment. The anesthetic may not wear off for a few hours. Be VERY careful during this time because you can easily bite your cheeks, tongue, and lips. You may also be sensitive where the procedure was performed or near the injection site. For this you may rinse your mouth with warm salt water (1-teaspoon salt in a glass of warm water) several times a day for relief.

Sensitivity

The sensitivity of the tooth will diminish after a few days. Depending on how infected the tooth was, Dr. Rockow-Nelson may possibly prescribe an antibiotic or pain medication. Even if the tooth feels completely fine, take ALL of the antibiotic. Over the counter analgesics such as Ibuprofen work well for discomfort you may feel after the procedure. You can take up to 800mg of Ibuprofen (Advil, Aleve, or Motrin) every 4-6 hours for prescription strength relief.

What You Need To Know

The FIRST step in saving your tooth is root canal therapy. An endodontically treated tooth is frailer than other teeth and can easily be broken. Your tooth needs extra support to restore it. We will need to build up the tooth. This will give the tooth stability that is needed for the final restoration process. A crown will be placed on your tooth to protect it. These steps are necessary after the root canal to make the tooth comfortable and stable.

The Future

When problems are caught in the earliest stages, they can be corrected easily. Your hygiene and examination appointments are extremely important to prevent gum disease and find developing problems. You will always be aware of the overall health of your mouth so that you can make the best decisions for your future treatment. We are committed to providing you with the highest quality dental treatment available. However, only your continuing care can assure optimum service and longevity.