

Post-Operative Instructions for Root Canal Therapy

We hope your experience at Happy Smiles Family Dentistry has been a pleasant one! Please read these instructions carefully to help with the healing process and ensure the procedure's success.

Your root canal treatment is complete. It is normal for your tooth to be sore for 2 to 3 days after treatment. It may actually become sorer on the second day. Tenderness with biting may persist for up to 2 weeks following treatment but will gradually get better over time.

We recommend taking the pain medication as prescribed by your doctor. If you experience swelling or pain (which is not comfortably controlled by the medications prescribed) or if there are complications with your medicines, **please call the office at (847)524-0488.**

If you were prescribed an antibiotic by our office or by your general dentist, please continue taking it as directed. Please contact us if you experience any allergic reaction (itchiness, hives, etc.) Birth control pills are not effective when taking antibiotics.

Your tooth only has a temporary filling at this time. It is critical that you make an appointment with your dentist for placement of the definitive restoration as soon as possible. Your dentist will place a crown, onlay, or filling to seal the root canal filling and help protect the tooth from fracture.

Avoid chewing on the treated tooth until the restoration is placed. You may eat normally after the numbness has worn off. The temporary filling takes about 45 minutes to set. However, please avoid chewing excessively on the tooth until your permanent filling has been placed.

You can brush as normal, but we recommend not flossing around the temporary filling.

You may have the tooth examined about one year after treatment. Although root canal treatment is highly successful, about 5 to 15% of teeth may not heal and may have persistent x-ray evidence of disease with or without symptoms. We would be happy to schedule this follow-up now, or you may call the office approximately one year from now to schedule.

Thank you for trusting us with your endodontic care and we look forward to serve you or anyone you refer to us in the future!