

Endodontic (Root Canal) Therapy

What To Expect:

It is not uncommon for a tooth to be uncomfortable or even exhibit a dull ache immediately after receiving root canal therapy. This should subside within one week.

Your tooth will be sensitive to biting pressure and may even appear to feel loose. The feeling is a result of the sensitivity of nerve-endings in the tissue just outside the end of the root, where we cleaned, irrigated, and placed filler and sealer material. This feeling will go away.

You may feel a depression or rough area (on the top of a back tooth or on the back of a front tooth) where our access to the canal of the tooth was made. There is a soft, temporary filling material in that area, which may wear away to some degree before your next visit.

What To Do:

We recommend that you take something for pain-relief within one hour of leaving our office, to get some medication into your blood system before the numbness begins to subside. Generally, only one dose is needed. We recommend ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin) – 800 mg (usually four tablets). If you have a medical condition or gastrointestinal disorder that precludes ibuprofen, acetaminophen (Tylenol) is a substitute, although it does not contain anti-inflammatory properties.

You may have been prescribed a stronger pain medication. This is primarily to be used at night. You should not expect to be 100% pain or discomfort free for a few days.

Whenever possible, try to chew on the opposite side from the tooth we have just treated, until you have a crown or onlay placed, or until the access area has been restored. Until that time, your tooth is still weakened and still could fracture.

Please avoid chewing gum, caramels, corn nuts or any other sticky or hard material that could dislodge the temporary filling or fracture your tooth.

Please call us if you are concerned or if you have symptoms that are significantly worse than described above. Call also if you lose all of the temporary filling, have significant swelling, or if the tooth feels “high”.

You should be able to squeeze your teeth together without this tooth hurting. If this is not the case, the temporary filling is “high” and should be adjusted.