

Informed Consent for Root Canal Treatment

Success rate: Root canal treatment (endodontic therapy) is about 95% successful. Many factors affect the success of the treatment: your general health, condition of the nerve and the root canal(s), bone support around the tooth, strength of the tooth (fracture lines), etc.

Completion of the treatment: Root canals are sometimes completed in a single appointment or could take several appointments, if this is the case you will be fitted with a temporary filling in the meantime to protect the canal. If the filling does come out, please call the surgery so we can replace it. Once treatment has begun it is absolutely necessary that the treatment is completed, the patient must also diligently follow any and all instructions.

Sensitivity: Just like with fillings, a root canal can be sensitive both during and after final treatment. Usually this sensitivity disappears in several weeks. If it does not or appears to worsen please call the surgery to arrange an appointment.

Crown Needed: A crown is usually recommended for any tooth that has a root canal. This is due to the fact that a root treated tooth no longer has a blood supply to it making it more brittle than other teeth. This is especially true on your molars and bicuspid, as you are using them to chew, a crown would go over the tooth protecting the remaining tooth and strengthening it.

Causes of fracture: One of the main reasons root canals fail is the breakage or fracture of the tooth. A fractured tooth (especially a vertical fracture) can require extraction of the tooth. One of the most effective ways to avoid fracture of the tooth is to have a crown placed over the top of the tooth. Some other causes of fracture include grinding of teeth, improper bite, or trauma. These fractures could occur both before and after root canal treatment and are hard to detect.

Proper care: Root canal teeth have no nerve, but they can still decay. It is important to take care of root canal teeth just as you would any other tooth: good oral hygiene at home, a good diet and attending regular check-ups will all help in keeping your teeth in good condition.

Additional treatment: Additional; treatment may be necessary. Occasionally root canal treatment alone does not complete the treatment. The canals of the tooth can be very narrow, curved or calcified. There may be infection around root of the tooth. Instruments used to treat the tooth may become separated in the canal. The tooth may remain or become sensitive. A surgical procedure or possibly extraction may be necessary to try to resolve the problem.

The nature and purpose of root canal treatment has been explained to me, and I have had an opportunity to have my questions answered. I understand that dentistry is not an exact science and success with oral surgery and/or extractions cannot be guaranteed. I voluntarily assume the risks, including the risk of substantial harm which may be associated with any part of this treatment. In view of the above information, I authorize the doctor and such associates and assistants as necessary to render any treatment necessary or advisable to my dental condition including any and all anaesthetics and medication.

Patient Signature _____

Date _____

Dentist Signature _____

Date _____