

Patient Instructions Following Root Canal Procedures

Root canal treatment is an excellent way to save a tooth that has been badly damaged by decay, or is infected, broken, or abscessed. A root canal may also be performed if the nerve has died in a tooth, or if we believe the nerve is going to die, in an attempt to prevent a potential painful situation from unexpectedly arising. To avoid complications following root canal therapy, follow the instructions listed below as carefully as possible:

Do not be worried if the tooth is tender or sore after anesthetic has worn off. All of the pushing and tugging done during the root canal procedure can make a tooth sore. Usually all that is needed to help the post-procedural sensitivity is 600 mg of Ibuprofen or two Tylenol pills. You **should not** have any severe pain, pronounced swelling, or fever. If you do, something may be going wrong. If so, call us and let us know.

Avoid chewing on the side where the root canal was done. This could cause an increase in sensitivity. We will tell you when it will be OK to resume eating on the tooth. In all likelihood, it will need to heal for a few weeks.

Fill any prescriptions and take medications as directed. If an antibiotic is prescribed, take the medicine until it is all gone even if you experience no discomfort.

If a temporary crown is present, do not floss around the tooth or pick at it with a toothpick. It could make it unnecessarily sore, or cause the temporary to come off. If the temporary should come off, we would not be worried or concerned unless you would be having some type of pain or discomfort.

After 24 to 48 hours, any discomfort from the procedure should begin to subside. Remember that it is not uncommon to experience some sensitivity for several weeks.

Should you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to call. **We are available 24 hours a day should you have an emergency or concern.** Call the office at 821-5566 and the answering machine will give you the telephone number of the doctor on call. Other telephone numbers, should you need them, are as follows:

Dr. Fuszner's 24 hour voice-mail pager: 314-672-0000

Dr. Fuszner's Home: 314-966-5079