



Post operative instructions after Root Canal Therapy

Your tooth and surrounding gum tissue may be slightly tender for several days because of manipulation during treatment and previous condition of your tooth. This tenderness is normal and is no cause for alarm. Be careful biting on the affected side until your root canal therapy is completed and your tooth is covered with a protective restoration (usually a crown is recommended). You may continue your regular dental hygiene regimen. Discomfort may be alleviated by taking ibuprofen (Advil), or acetaminophen (Tylenol) as directed.

NOTE: Alcohol intake is not advised while taking any of these medications. Should you experience discomfort that cannot be controlled with the above listed medications, or should swelling develop, please contact this office immediately. 907-562-4774.

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT?

Endodontic treatment has now been completed. The root canal system has been permanently sealed. However, the outer surface is sealed with a temporary restoration. A follow-up restoration must be placed to protect your tooth against fracture and decay.

Your tooth is more prone to fracture immediately after endodontic treatment. You should chew on the other side until your Dr Lopez has placed a core build-up and a protective restoration, usually a crown.

ARE THERE ANY POTENTIAL PROBLEMS AFTER TREATMENT?

Lower teeth and nerve injury. There is a slight possibility that nerve injury can occur during root canal surgery to the lower posterior teeth. Dr Lopez is trained to assess this possibility prior to treatment and will advise you accordingly. For lower posterior teeth, the root tips may be near a nerve that supplies feeling to the lip, chin and gums. Dr Lopez is trained to design your surgery to minimize the chances of damaging this nerve. Rarely, this nerve can become irritated during the process of surgery. In these cases, when the local anesthesia wears off, you may experience tingling, altered sensation or, in rare cases a complete lack of feeling in the affected tissues. Should this occur, it is usually temporary and will resolve over a period of days, weeks or months. In rare cases, these changes can be painful or permanent.

Upper teeth and sinus communication. The upper teeth are situated near your sinuses, and root canal surgery can result in a communication between your mouth and the adjacent sinus. Should this complication occur, it will usually heal spontaneously. We will give you special instructions if this is apparent at the time of surgery. We prefer that you don't blow your nose for two to three days after surgery. If you must sneeze, you should sneeze with an open mouth into a tissue. You should not create any pressure in the sinus area. If you sense a complication after surgery, please contact us.

Post-operative infections. Post-operative infections occasionally occur. This usually requires just an office visit and examination. Many times, placing you on an antibiotic for one week will take care of the infection. Occasionally, other follow-up procedures will be needed.

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to call our office.

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