



Patient Information Regarding Root Canal Treatment

You have just received endodontic treatment for a tooth with root canal problems. These instructions have been prepared so you can have information readily available when questions arise regarding this dental care. It is strongly recommended that you keep this information sheet handy to answer questions that may occur following these and other endodontic treatment appointments. Some concerns other patients have had are:

1. PAIN...You should expect to experience mild to moderate discomfort following these appointments. Realistically, this procedure has involved more than just the individual tooth treated so you should expect some soreness of the gum tissue and the area where the anesthetic was delivered. Medication such as Aspirin or Tylenol should take care of this discomfort; if not, advance to Motrin, all of such are available at a drug store or a super market. It is recommended that you take one dose before the numbness of the anesthetic wears off. If you are allergic to these medications, do not take them and notify Dr. Schofield. Your comfort is our concern and if pain persists, we should be notified.
2. SWELLING...A swelling of the gum tissue is normal. Exaggerated swelling is not normal and we need to know about this, especially if it involves the facial tissues. Appropriate antibiotics will then be indicated. (Most of the time we do not prescribe antibiotics for root canal treatment.)
3. ELEVATED TEMPERATURE...if you don't feel good, take your temperature, if it is above 102 degrees, we need to know about it. Otherwise, take aspirin (or Tylenol) to control this problem. Appropriate antibiotics would probably be indicated if your temperature is above 102 degrees.
4. SOME HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS:
 - A. Following your appointment, rinse frequently, once each waking hour with warm salt water, (1 tablespoon of regular table salt in a full 8 oz. glass of warm water) hold over the tooth of treatment and swish for 1-2 minutes.
 - B. Eat a balanced diet – your body needs nourishment for healing.
 - C. DO NOT take any medication on an empty stomach unless specifically directed. If you do, you may experience vomiting and/or an upset stomach!
 - D. Under most circumstances, 90% of our patients get along well with over-the-counter medications and experience a successful procedure. The tooth normally will be tender to biting for 1-2 days; however, if severe pain is persistent a simple revisit to adjust the bite is needed.
5. COMPLETED RESTORATION...Following completion of the root canal treatment, the tooth should be restored with a permanent restoration.

If this information sheet is not complete or you need more information, please contact us.