

INFORMATION AND CONSENT FOR ROOT CANAL THERAPY

1. **Root Canal Therapy is approximately 70-95 percent successful.** Many factors influence the treatment outcome: the patients general health, bone support around the tooth, strength of the tooth including possible fracture lines, shape and condition of the root and the nerve canal(s), etc.
2. **The treated tooth may normally be sensitive following appointments** and remain tender for a time after treatment is completed. If sensitivity persists, and does not seem to be getting better, even several weeks after the root canal therapy is finished, call our office immediately.
3. **Teeth treated for root canal therapy must be protected during treatment.** Between appointments your tooth will have a temporary filling. If this should come out, please call the office immediately and arrange to have it replaced.
4. **Fractures are one of the main reasons why root canal treatments fail. DO NOT EAT ON THE TREATED TOOTH UNTIL PERMANENT CROWN IS PLACED!** Unfortunately, some cracks that can extend from the crown down into the root are invisible and are virtually impossible to detect. They can occur on uncrowned teeth from traumatic injury, biting on hard objects, habitual clenching or grinding, or even normal wear. Whether the fracture occurs before or after the root canal treatment, the tooth may have to be extracted.
5. **You could experience possible lip numbness.** Although vary rare and mostly temporary, there is a possibility of permanent lip numbness.
6. **Since a tooth with root canal treatment is more brittle then other teeth, it is highly recommended that a post/core or build-up and permanent crown be made to finally restore the tooth.** Because the tooth is now hollow, it can fracture easily. If the tooth is not crowned it may break rendering it un-restorable, and consequently require extraction.
7. **With some teeth, conventional root canal treatment alone may not be sufficient.** If the canal(s) are severely bent or calcified, if there is substantial or long standing infection in the bone, or if a metal file or instrument becomes separated within a canal, the tooth may remain sensitive and a surgical procedure may be necessary to resolve the problem. A referral to an endodontist at an additional cost may be required.
8. **If we remove an existing crown, the porcelain or tooth may chip or fracture.** If the dentist is required to remove your existing crown to achieve proper access to the canals, the removal procedure may cause the porcelain crown or the tooth to fracture. Therefore, the crown may have to be remade or the tooth extracted.
9. **There are alternatives to root canal therapy.** They include no treatment at all, extraction with nothing to fill the space, or an extraction followed by a bridge, partial denture, or implant to fill the space.

I have had all of my questions answered regarding root canal therapy, build-up and crown repair. I understand that success with root canal treatment cannot be guaranteed. I understand that root canal therapy is necessary. I authorized the dentist to proceed with the root canal treatment.

Print Patient Name: _____

Date: _____

Patient Signature: _____

Tooth # _____

Witness Signature: _____

Date: _____