

## **Care Instructions After Root Canal Therapy**

For root canal treatment, we often use an anesthetic that lasts longer than the usual 3-4 hours, sometimes 8-12 hours. Therefore please do not be alarmed if the numbness lasts longer than what you are used to.

Because cleaning the root canals may cause inflammation of the tissue surrounding the tooth, you may experience some discomfort. Before the numbness wears off, take 400 to 800 mg (2 to 4 tablets) of ibuprofen (Advil). This will help to ease or even prevent discomfort you may have when the anesthetic is gone. Ibuprofen is a good medication for root canal treatment because it helps to reduce inflammation as well as discomfort.

It is impossible to predict what amount of discomfort you may experience after a root canal. Most of the time it is minimal, but it can range from no discomfort to a significant amount for a few days. As always, let us know if you have any questions. Your tooth may feel rough to your tongue. There is a temporary filling present, and we may have adjusted the chewing surface of the tooth to take it out of contact with opposing teeth.

Sometimes antibiotics are prescribed to help control infection. Please take all medication as directed.

You need to return for the final restoration (crown or filling) that must be placed after the root canal is completed.

Retreatment of the tooth may occasionally be necessary. Even though the pulp of the tooth was removed, the tooth is still nourished from surrounding tissues. As with any living tissue, treatment is occasionally unsuccessful, and a retreatment or extraction of the tooth may be necessary.

If you have any questions, please call us at 778-1442.