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Root Canal Treatment

Postoperative Instructions

Your root canal treatment may take one or more visits to complete. During treatment, your dentist will remove the diseased pulp, then clean, shape and fill the root canal to prevent recontamination. This brochure will answer some of your questions about what to expect and how to take care of your mouth after treatment.

What to Expect After Treatment

- Because cleaning the root canals may cause inflammation of tissue surrounding the tooth, you may experience some discomfort for a day or so.
- Over-the-counter analgesics usually alleviate the discomfort. Talk with your dentist about which medication to take. If discomfort continues, or if you have severe pain or swelling, call your dentist.
- Between appointments a temporary filling or crown is placed. Because temporary restorations will eventually loosen, see your dentist promptly following completed root canal treatment for final restoration.
- Sometimes antibiotics are prescribed to help control infection. Please take all medication as directed.

How to Take Care of Your Mouth

- Avoid chewing or biting directly in the treated tooth until your dentist replaces the temporary restoration.
- If medication is prescribed, take it only as directed.
- Return for follow-up exam after treatment as directed to make sure there has been proper healing of the tissues surrounding the tooth root.

Re-treatment 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 tissues, treatment is occasionally unsuccessful and a re-treatment, or removal of the tooth, may be necessary.

