

## **Root Canal Therapy**

Inside of all normal teeth is a cavity containing nerves, blood vessels, and live soft tissue called the dental pulp. Occasionally the pulp tissue is abused by trauma, deep decay, large fillings, crowns, or other factors, and the pulp tissue becomes necrotic (dead). Usually, pulp death results in pain or bone destruction visible on dental x-rays. Treating a necrotic (dead) pulp is a delicate procedure requiring the following steps.

- A small hole is made in the tooth to allow access to the dead pulp tissue
  - Using a series of small files, the dead pulp tissue is removed from the internal portion of the tooth
  - When the internal portion of the tooth is hollow and clear, the area is filled with a “rubber like” material called “gutta-percha”
  - If the tooth has been severely weakened, it may need a supportive post placed internally, in addition to a crown for optimal strength and longevity
  - Root canal therapy is about 95% effective in restoring the tooth back to normal function. However, occasionally, mild discomfort lingers for a few weeks before the tooth feels normal. The tooth that has received root canal therapy, will no longer feel temperature changes. The tooth may be sore to biting pressure. Avoid eating on tooth for several days, chewing on the opposite site of therapy.
  - Most discomfort associated with the root canal can be treated with over-the-counter medication. Take as directed per bottle label
  - If you were given a prescription, please fill and take as directed. Antibiotics need to be taken until they are gone to ensure proper healing and to avoid risk of further infection
  - It is important to brush and floss in order for the tissue around the tooth to stay healthy; brushing the gum tissue gently will help avoid tissue discomfort
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- Your root canal treated tooth has been fitted with a temporary crown
    - Please refer to post-op instructions for Temporary Crown/Bridge for further care instructions
  
  - Your root canal therapy is complete and has been closed with a final filling

We have done our best to provide you with the finest quality oral restorations available today. However, only your continuing excellent oral hygiene and professional recalls can ensure optimum service and longevity.

Should you have any concerns about your root canal therapy, or if you experience severe pain, swelling or fever, please do not hesitate to call our office at (815) 725-5991