

Root canal treatment may take more than one appointment. During treatment, the pulp tissue that makes up the nerve is removed and the canals where this tissue was will be cleaned and reshaped. Please note the following:

1. This procedure will cause some **INFLAMMATION**. you will feel discomfort for a couple of days after completion of the procedure.
2. **IF A THROBBING SENSATION OCCURS** please keep your head elevated as much as possible and place extra pillows under your head when lying down.
3. **ANTI-INFLAMMATORY MEDICATIONS** are the best type of medication to take in order to decrease the inflammation.
 - The recommended over the counter meds are: 800mg of Ibuprofen every 6 hours as necessary (same as 3-4 Advil or Motrin tablets every 6 hours). Otherwise, 600mg of Aspirin every 6 hours, or 400mg of Naproxen (Aleve) every 12 hours can be taken.
 - If these anti-inflammatory medications are not well tolerated (allergies or stomach ulcer problems), then Acetaminophen (Tylenol) can be substituted (but anti-inflammatory meds (i.e. Advil/Motrin) are better than Tylenol for post-operative healing). Stronger pain medication will be prescribed if more analgesia is predicted or required.
4. Occasionally, (in 5% of the cases) **THERE MIGHT BE SWELLING** that may occur immediately, or several days after the root canal procedure. This is primarily a body response to the type of bacteria found inside the root canal or outside of it in the bone.
 - You may contact our office so antibiotics can be prescribed (if not already prescribed) to hasten the clearance of the swelling. Since this occurs in a small portion of the population, antibiotics are not routinely prescribed after the root canal treatment (to prevent the development of allergies and resistant organisms) but will be prescribed if you contact us when the need arises (if swelling occurs).
5. A **TEMPORARY FILLING** was most likely placed on this tooth. The temporary filling will seal the tooth from bacteria. Avoid eating directly on this tooth. If the filling breaks, contact us immediately.
6. If the root canal treatment was not completed on the first visit, even if the tooth is feeling better, it is very important that you **RETURN FOR THE COMPLETION OF TREATMENT**. A larger infection could follow if not completed.
7. Even if the nerve of the tooth was removed, the tooth is still nourished from the surrounding tissues. Occasionally, treatment is unsuccessful, or there may be an undetected fracture. Pre-treatment of the root canal therapy or extraction of the tooth may be indicated.
8. After the root canal is completed, patient is advised on the need of a **BUILD UP AND CROWN** in order to avoid the tooth from fracturing.

If you have any problems or questions,
please do not hesitate to call our office at (215) 223-5555. Thank you!