



AFTERCARE INSTRUCTIONS- ROOT CANAL THERAPY

You have just had the initial visit for root canal therapy. Root canal normally takes two to three visits, but can be completed in one visit in certain circumstances. It is advisable to refrain from eating for one to two hours, as the temporary restoration requires time to set.

The initial visit consisted of measuring, shaping and irrigating the canal(s), followed by the placement of a disinfecting dressing and a temporary restoration.

If a local anesthetic was administered, you may have some discomfort when it wears off. A local anesthetic will generally begin to wear off in one to three hours, depending on the amount that was administered.

You can take an analgesic for pain, (normally whatever you take for a headache) if needed. If a pain medication is prescribed, take as directed, again, only as needed. If an antibiotic was prescribed, take all the medication as directed, for the recommended amount of time.

You can expect the tooth to be tender to biting pressure. This is normal and will improve over time. It is not uncommon for the temporary to sink into the tooth slightly. It may feel as though it has fallen out. Also, a medicinal taste may be present. You are tasting the disinfectant that was placed inside the tooth.

On your second visit, the root canal will generally be completed. The temporary will be removed and the clean and reshaped canals will be sealed with gutta percha, a soft rubber-like compound. Some tenderness to bite may be experienced after the completion visit. This will also improve over time.

It is imperative that you return to have the tooth restored. A filling may be recommended in cases where a large amount of tooth structure remains. However, in a majority of cases a post and crown will be required.

If you should experience any swelling or severe acute pain, please contact the office @ (631) 669-2330.