



Care of Mouth After a Root Canal

1. It is normal to feel tenderness or discomfort in the tooth and the area around the tooth treated with a root canal. As a general rule, the more discomfort you had prior to treatment, the more you will likely have following treatment.
2. It may be uncomfortable to chew on the root canal tooth for several days to a few weeks.
3. These symptoms will decrease over time; however, if you have severe pain lasting more than a few days, please call the office.
4. If you have visible swelling inside or outside of your mouth that wasn't present prior to treatment, please contact the office.
5. Avoid eating or drinking hot fluids until the numbness wears off.
6. You may be prescribed an antibiotic depending on whether the treated tooth is infected. If so, please take it as prescribed until it is all gone – even if the treated tooth starts feeling better.
7. If your treated tooth was prepared for a crown, please see the instructions for “Mouth Care After a Crown Prep and Temporary.”
8. You will be provided with medication for discomfort that is appropriate for you. In most cases, a non-narcotic pain regimen will be given consisting of one *Acetaminophen 500mg* (Tylenol) and two *Ibuprofen 200mg* (Advil) taken every 4 hours. These two medications, taken together, will be as effective as a narcotic without any of the side effects associated with narcotics. If a narcotic has been prescribed, follow the directions carefully. You may take Ibuprofen with the narcotics, but not the Tylenol. If you have an allergic reaction to any medication, such as a skin rash or hives, stop the medication and call the office. If you have any questions about these medications, interacting with other medications you are presently taking, please call the office.

Companion Signature: _____ Date: _____

(If patient uses sedation, companion must sign.)

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