

INFORMED CONSENT FOR ROOT CANAL THERAPY

RISKS: Root canal therapy is very successful. However, Not all procedures are successful and oral surgery or extraction may be necessary. I understand that there are certain potential risks in the procedure which may include, but not limited to, the following:

- Infection which does not respond to root canal treatment
- Curved, calcified, or otherwise inaccessible canals
- Fractured roots
- Separation (or breakage) of a file within the root canal
- The possibility of perforation through the root canal into the surrounding bone
- The possibility of an existing tooth/root fracture before treatment or the tooth fracturing after treatment
- The possibility of over/under filling of the root canal
- The possibility of prolonged paresthesia (numbness) due to the injection, infection or trauma. Very rarely is this numbness permanent.
- If the tooth being treated already has a crown, a small hole (which will be filled upon completion) must be drilled through the crown to access the root canal. There is the possibility that the crown will break and require replacement.
- Radiographs are necessary for treatment.

MEDICATIONS: Prescribed medications and drugs may cause drowsiness and lack of awareness and coordination (which may be influenced by the use of alcohol, tranquilizers, sedatives or other drugs). It is not advisable to operate any vehicle or hazardous device until recovered from their effects. Antibiotics may cause some forms of birth control to be ineffective.

OTHER TREATMENT CHOICES: I understand that this is an elective procedure and that there are alternative treatments, which include: no treatment, waiting for more definite development of symptoms, or tooth extraction. Risks involved in these choices might include pain, infection, swelling and loss of the tooth/teeth.

FOLLOW-UP CARE: Teeth treated with root canal therapy must be protected after treatment.

- For two-appointment root canal therapy, your tooth will have a temporary filling between visits. If this should come out, please call the office and arrange to have it replaced. Even a completed root canal, left unrestored (filling/crown), can become re-infected and require another root canal.
- After completion of the root canal procedure, you will be referred back to your restorative dentist for permanent restoration (filling/crown/cap). **Failure to have the tooth properly restored in a timely manner (generally within 30 days) significantly increases the possibility of failure of the root canal procedure or tooth fracture.**
- Fractures are one of the main reasons why root canals fail. They can occur on uncrowned teeth from traumatic injury, biting on hard objects, habitual clenching or grinding, or even normal wear and tear. Whether the fracture occurs before or after the root canal, it may require extraction of the tooth.
- Teeth treated with root canal therapy can still decay, but since the doctor removed the nerve there will probably be no pain. As with other teeth, the proper care of these teeth consists of good home care, fluoride use, a sensible diet, and periodic dental checkups.

EXPECTATIONS: I understand that root canal therapy is an attempt to save a tooth which may otherwise require extraction. Although root canal therapy has a very high success rate, this office has not guaranteed or promised a perfect result. Occasionally a tooth, which has had root canal therapy, may require re-treatment, surgery, or even extraction.

CONSENT: The nature of endodontic treatment has been explained to me, and I have had a chance to have my questions answered. In light of the above information, I authorize the doctor to proceed with endodontic treatment. I also understand that, upon request, I will be provided a copy of this signed consent form.

[Redacted Signature Area]

Print Name

[Redacted Signature Area]

Date

[Redacted Signature Area]

Patient or Parent/Guardian Signature

[Redacted Signature Area]

Witness (ETE employee)