



**LAKEVIEW**  
— DENTAL —

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## POST-OP INSTRUCTIONS FOR ROOT CANAL TREATMENT

- 1) If root canal therapy has been **initiated** you must schedule an additional appointment at our office for completion or the tooth will eventually become infected and painful.
- 2) If root canal therapy has been **completed**, we have temporarily sealed your tooth with a temporary filling material. You **must** return within 2 weeks to have the tooth sealed with a permanent filling otherwise bacteria will seep into the tooth (even with the temporary filling in place) and contaminate the tooth. This will cause your root canal to fail.
- 3) Even if you were not experiencing any discomfort prior to treatment, it is normal to experience some discomfort for several days, especially when chewing. Eat soft foods and avoid biting on the tooth until the inflammation resolves. Some patients experience no discomfort while others develop a fair amount of discomfort. If you have had root canals in the past with very little to no discomfort that does not mean every tooth will follow a similar pattern. You can take over the counter pain medication to control the discomfort. Typically this is caused by inflammation and it will need time to resolve. This may last anywhere between 2-10 days. Swelling in the affected area may also occur which indicates infection that should be treated with antibiotics. These are not unusual post-operative events.
- 4) If antibiotics are prescribed, continue to take them for the indicated length of time, even if all symptoms and signs have resolved. Notify the office of any problems that may arise from medications being taken.
- 5) It's common, and not a problem, for a small portion of your temporary filling to wear away or break off between appointments. If the **entire** filling falls out call us so that we can replace it.
- 6) Usually, the last step after root canal treatment is the placement of a crown on the tooth. This is typically done on back teeth for protection. A crown covers the entire tooth and protects it from breaking. Without a crown you are by far more likely to suffer from a fracture and possibly lose the tooth! Avoid excessive pressure on the tooth until you have a crown.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your treatment, please do not hesitate to contact our office.