



Consent For Root Canal Therapy

1. The success of root canal therapy is influenced by many factors. These factors are: Your general health, adequate gum attachment and bone support, shape and condition of the roots and nerve canals, quality of previous dental care, and pre-existing root fractures, all affect individual healing.
2. Teeth treated with root canal therapy can still decay but because the nerve is gone, there will be no pain. Good oral hygiene and periodic check-ups are necessary for maintaining dental health.
3. The treated tooth may remain sensitive following appointments. If sensitivity persists and does not seem to be getting better, please phone the office for a consult and possible appointment. Usually, administration of an appropriate medication will quickly resolve the problem. It is normal for a treated tooth to be sensitive for one week after the final appointment and to feel different than the surrounding teeth for another two weeks.
4. There is also a risk of swallowing or aspirating an instrument or other foreign body. I understand that other risks include: perforation of the tooth or tooth root by an instrument; injury to soft tissues adjacent to the tooth; sinus perforation; and nerve disturbances such as temporary or permanent numbness, itching, burning, or tingling of the lip, tongue, chin, teeth, and/or mouth tissues.
5. In some teeth, regular root canal therapy alone may not be sufficient. If the canals are severely curved or calcified, if there is substantial infection in the bone around the roots, or if an instrument separates and remains within a canal, the tooth may remain sensitive and an endodontic surgery procedure may be necessary to resolve the problem.
6. Root fracture is one of the main reasons why root canal therapies fail. Unfortunately, some cracks that extend from the crown down into the roots are invisible and undetectable. The cracks can occur on uncrowned teeth from traumatic injury, biting on hard objects, habitual clenching or grinding, and even just normal wear and tear. While root canal therapy is predictable, it is not always possible to predict which teeth will crack and end up needing to be extracted
7. Typically, teeth that require root canal therapy are already weakened from previous cavities. The dentist may recommend a post, core, and a crown to prevent the tooth from cracking. This is especially important with molar and bicuspid teeth. There is an additional charge for each of these procedures.
8. There are alternatives to root canal therapy. They include extraction; extraction followed by a bridge, partial denture, implant, or no treatment at all.
9. If the tooth already has a crown, there is a risk that the crown could crack and require replacement.
10. If, during treatment, the tooth is found to have a reduced success rate due to a crack or extensive decay, and you decide not to complete the root canal, an incomplete root canal fee of \$315 will be charged unless you have been previously quoted. INITIALS:
11. The nature of root canal therapy has been explained to me and any remaining questions have been answered by my treating dentist. I do understand that dentistry is not an exact science and success with root canal therapy cannot be guaranteed. Considering all information, I hereby authorize my treating dentist to proceed with treatment on tooth # ____.
12. Signature of patient (Guardian if minor): Date:

Print Name: