

# AFTER ROOT CANAL TREATMENT

The root canal system inside your tooth has been thoroughly cleaned, and the irritated tissue and bacteria that have caused you to need root canal treatment are gone. It is normal to feel some tenderness in the area over the next few days as your body undergoes the natural healing process. You may also feel some tenderness in your jaw from keeping it open for an extended period.

These symptoms are temporary and usually respond very well to over-the-counter pain medications. It is important to follow individualized aftercare instructions. Remember, narcotic medications, if prescribed, may make you drowsy, and caution should be exercised in operating dangerous machines or driving a car after taking them.

The discomfort you are experiencing should resolve in the next few days where each consecutive day should be better than the one before. If this is not the case, please call us for an evaluation. If you notice persistent swelling which is also migrating toward your neck, please call immediately - this may be a serious complication requiring immediate attention. Please remember your root canal treatment is not complete until a final restoration is placed on the tooth. You must return as soon as possible to have the final restoration (such as crown or bridge) made or you risk fracture of the tooth and eventual extraction.

## **What the Future Holds?**

The tooth that has had appropriate endodontic treatment followed by a proper restoration can last as long as your other natural teeth. After the tooth has been restored, you need only practice good oral hygiene, including brushing, flossing, regular checkups and cleanings.

We will periodically see you for follow-ups that will include taking x-rays of the tooth to ensure that healing has occurred. Occasionally, a tooth that has undergone endodontic treatment does not heal or pain continues. At times, the tooth may become painful or diseased months or even years after successful treatment. Often when this occurs, repeating the endodontic procedure can save the tooth.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us, we are always here for you.