

Northern Illinois Endodontics

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Root Canal Treatment Postoperative Instructions

Your root canal treatment may take one or more visits to complete. During treatment your endodontist will remove the diseased pulp tissue, then clean, shape and fill the root canals to prevent contamination. This information will help answer some of your questions about what to expect and how to take care of your mouth after treatment.

What to expect after Treatment

Because cleaning the root canals may cause inflammation of tissue surrounding the tooth, you may experience some discomfort for a few days. Over-the-Counter analgesics usually alleviate the discomfort. Talk with your endodontist about which medication to take. If the discomfort continues, or if you have severe pain or swelling, call your endodontist.

Sometimes antibiotics are prescribed to help control infection. Please take all medication as directed.

Between appointments, a temporary filling is placed. Because temporary restorations will eventually loosen, see your general dentist promptly following your completed root canal treatment for a final restoration. Be mindful when chewing or biting directly on the treated tooth until your general dentist replaces the temporary restoration.

If directed, return for a follow-up exam after treatment to make sure there has been proper healing.

Retreatment May Occasionally be Necessary

Even though the pulp of the tooth was removed, the tooth is still nourished from surrounding tissues. As with any biological procedure, treatment is occasionally unsuccessful and retreatment, or removal of the tooth may be necessary.