

Randolph Endodontics/Orthodontics
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Silver Spring, MD 20904
(301) 384-9800

ROOT CANAL TREATMENT – POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

- NUMBNESS** Care must be taken not to bite or chew on numb areas of cheek, lips and tongue. Numbness can last from one-and-one-half hours, up to eight hours, depending on the type of anesthesia used. If hungry, drink orange juice or other beverage until sensation of numbness has worn off. When normal feeling returns you can eat soft foods.
- SORENESS** Natural tissue inflammation may cause discomfort for a few days, which can be controlled by an over-the-counter analgesic (e.g. Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Anacin, or Naproxen). A follow-up exam can monitor tissue healing. From this point on, brush and floss regularly, avoid chewing hard or sticky foods on the treated tooth.
- TEMPORARY FILLING** After root canal treatment, a temporary filling is usually placed to seal the access cavity in the tooth. You should not chew for one-and-a-half hours to allow the filling to set properly.
- MEDICATIONS** If antibiotics are prescribed, take as directed until all are gone. Pain medication is to be taken only when needed for dental pain. **DO NOT OPERATE DANGEROUS MACHINERY, OR DRIVE AFTER PAIN MEDICATIONS AS YOU MAY BE DROWSY.** Alcohol should never be mixed with medications as severe complications may arise.
- FOLLOW-UP VISIT WITH YOUR DENTIST** Once the tooth has settled down and is comfortable to function you should make an appointment with your dentist for the tooth restoration. Usually a crown is needed to strengthen the remaining tooth structure and to prevent fracture. Please make an appointment with your General Dentist for the crown/restoration.
- PROBLEMS** Should post-operative problems or questions arise call 301-384-9800 or 301-332-3252