



Aftercare Instructions for Root Canal Treatments

- ✓ Your **anesthetic will wear off in approximately 1 to 3 hours** after the procedure. It is very important not to eat until the anesthesia wears off to prevent biting your lip, tongue, etc. You should also wait to eat or drink anything hot until the anesthesia wears off to prevent burning your mouth.
- ✓ Though some of the root canal procedures we perform are completed in 1 appointment, root canal therapy can take **more than 1 appointment to complete, sometimes 2 or 3.**
- ✓ Between appointments, a **temporary filling is placed** to protect the tooth. It is common (and not a problem) for a small portion of your temporary filling to wear away or break off. If the entire filling falls out, please call our office.
- ✓ **It is normal to experience some discomfort for several days** after a root canal procedure. To control discomfort, you can take over the counter Motrin or Tylenol as needed. Taking ibuprofen before the numbness wears off can greatly reduce post-operative pain. If antibiotics are prescribed, continue to take them as directed, even if all signs of symptoms and infection are gone.
- ✓ Usually, the last step in a root canal is the placement of a crown or permanent filling in the tooth. A crown will protect the tooth from breaking in the future. To protect the tooth and keep the filling in place, **avoid chewing on the treated tooth** until your crown is placed, as it could fracture beyond repair. Continue to brush and floss normally.