



SMILE CREATIONS

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NONSURGICAL ENDODONTIC TREATMENT

TREATMENT CONSIDERATIONS:

- Root canal therapy involves gaining access to the inside of the tooth to remove diseased soft tissue (i.e., the pulp or "nerve")
- A tooth may have single or multiple roots. A root may have single or multiple canals. The more canals, the more involved the treatment.
- Each canal must be thoroughly cleaned, shaped, and subsequently sealed ("filled").
- This process is time consuming and may necessitate multiple appointments to complete.
- When a tooth receives a "root canal" it is architecturally weakened due to loss of tooth structure and moisture content.
- The longevity of the endodontically treated tooth is at risk without a final restoration. Restoration of the crown is necessary for function and esthetics. It also prevents leakage from the oral cavity into the canal system that can cause treatment failure.
- Gold or porcelain restorations/crowns are usually indicated.

WHAT TO EXPECT FOLLOWING ROOT CANAL THERAPY:

- Some discomfort may be present after a "root canal". Commonly available over-the-counter pain medications should give you adequate relief from discomfort. Prescription pain medication may be indicated if deemed necessary by your provider; use only as per instructions.
- Contrary to popular belief, "routine" administration of antibiotics is not indicated.
- A feeling of a "high filling" may occur as a result of slight swelling in the periodontal ligament around the root.
- Discoloration of the crown may infrequently occur and necessitate additional subsequent therapies to improve esthetics.
- Tooth fracture can occur and necessitate additional subsequent therapies such as crown lengthening, orthodontic extrusion, or extraction if deemed non-restorable.
- Temporary fillings may breakdown or dislodge.

WHAT TO DO FOLLOWING ROOT CANAL THERAPY:

- Good oral hygiene is a must (i.e., brushing, flossing, and mouthrinses)!
- Avoid chewing hard or sticky foods.