

INFORMED CONSENT FOR ENDODONTIC (ROOT CANAL) TREATMENT

It has been recommended that you have root canal treatment on one or more teeth. The following information is provided to you so that you may make an informed decision regarding the care of your teeth.

Root canal treatment is the process of removing infected, injured or dead pulp tissue from your tooth. The purpose of having a root canal treatment is to save a tooth that may otherwise have to be removed. If a tooth that is infected is left untreated more serious damage and/or pain may occur requiring more extensive treatment or extraction.

Root canal treatment has a high degree of success (approximately 90%) however, because it is a biological procedure, success cannot be guaranteed nor predicted. There are many factors that can affect the success rate of a root canal treatment, including but not limited to: shape and location of root canals, unseen fractures in tooth, failure to follow up with proper restoration of the tooth as well as inherent difficulty in treating any given tooth. In the event that your tooth requires a retreatment of an existing root canal treatment, the success rate is much lower.

Following root canal treatment, it is common to expect some pain although it is most commonly mild to moderate and can be controlled with painkillers. It is also common to experience biting sensitivity which usually diminishes with time.

Some complications of root canal treatment may be, but are not limited to:

- Failure of the procedure necessitating retreatment, root surgery, other treatment, or extraction of the affected tooth/teeth and/or referral to a specialist
- Difficulty locating and working in all suspected canals and filling of those canals
- Breakage of an instrument inside the canal during treatment which may lower prognosis of tooth
- Perforation of root or tooth which may require additional treatment or extraction
- Continued infection despite all reasonable attempts to treat the affected tooth/teeth.
- Fracture of the tooth during or after treatment. It is often recommended that your tooth should have a strong restoration such as a crown placed in order to prevent this. Your dentist and you will make that decision. If your tooth already has a crown it may fracture and may have to be replaced.

Most root canal treatments can be performed by a general dentist or endodontist (root canal specialist). Dr. David Zins D.D.S. is a General Dentist with many years of experience in performing root canal treatments and retreatments. If you wish to see a specialist for your treatment please bring this to our attention prior to treatment.

By signing below, I acknowledge having read and understanding the recommended treatment, the risks of such treatment, and alternatives including doing nothing. I have had a chance to have all of my questions answered. I understand that success is not guaranteed. I consent to Dr. David Zins performing this root canal procedure for me.

Print Name

Signature of Patient/Guardian

Date