



## Post Operative Care for Emergency Root Canal Therapy

### *What is Emergency Root Canal Therapy?*

You may have heard the doctor say that the “emergency portion” or “first part of the root canal was done today.” This means that the decay present in your tooth extended into the nerve chamber. When this happens, the infected nerve tissue needs to be removed. Root Canal Therapy will be needed to prevent further infection of the tooth and surrounding bone. The reason why you may not have had pain prior to today’s visit is because the nerve may be dead or dying, and incapable of responding to stimuli.

At this stage, the root canal has *not* been completed. We want to make sure the tooth does not develop any unwanted symptoms. As long as there are no unexpected symptoms, the final portion of the Root Canal can be completed right here in our office. The doctor will clean and shape the *root canals* of the tooth and then seal them with a rubber-like filling material. Once the root canal treatment is completed, you will need to schedule an appointment to have the tooth restored with a final restoration using the material the doctor has recommended on your treatment plan (usually a post, crown, or onlay).

### *What You Need to Know*

- ◆ Do not eat while numb – you can bite or burn your lips, gum tissue, or cheek.
- ◆ After numbness wears off, evaluate your bite; it should feel normal and even. Check for sharp edges and call the office if you need to schedule a quick adjustment.
- ◆ There may be swelling; it should decrease over the first 48 hours. If new or increased swelling occurs, call the office *immediately*.
- ◆ Soreness at the injection site(s) and sore jaw muscles is expected. Some sensitivity to biting and chewing may occur, but it is temporary. You may use over-the-counter pain relievers to help ease your discomfort.
- ◆ Over-the-counter pain medication should alleviate your symptoms. Ibuprofen (Advil) is preferred, but Acetaminophen (Tylenol) is acceptable. The doctor may have prescribed antibiotic or pain medication for you to take. Take all medications as directed; finish taking the antibiotic, even if you are feeling 100%. Should you have an adverse reaction to these medications (rash, hives, itching, nausea, severe diarrhea) stop taking the medication and call the office immediately.
- ◆ Keep a soft diet and try to chew food away from the area(s) treated.
- ◆ A *temporary* filling was placed to keep saliva and bacteria out of the tooth. If you notice a large portion of your temporary filling is missing or that the inside of the tooth is exposed, please call the office to schedule a 5 minute visit to have the filling replaced. In addition, remember to return to the office to complete the procedure; although you may not have any pain, a temporary filling is not meant to remain in place for the long-term. The procedure needs to be completed and a permanent restoration needs to be placed.