Skiffey Family Dentistry

P: 330-336-6611

Root Canal Post-Operative Instructions

The purpose of the root canal treatment is to remove diseased tissue from inside the root and seal the root end. Depending on the case, root canal treatment may be completed in one, two or three visits. Once started, it is important to complete the root canal treatment in a timely fashion.

It is normal to feel some tenderness in the area for a few days after the root canal is started as your body undergoes the healing process. You may also feel some tenderness in your jaw from keeping it open for an extended period of time. Let a staff member know if you experienced this at your next visit as we can provide a “bite block” or rest periods.

Most symptoms are temporary and usually respond very well to over the country medications like Ibuprofen. Sometimes a narcotic is given but you will often be given an antibiotic as well to help clear up any infection in the tooth. Please take the antibiotic AS DIRECTED or the infection may become “resistant” requiring an even stronger antibiotic.

Remember that you should not drive a car or engage in any type of activity requiring mental alertness while taking narcotics. If swelling does not reduce after a few days or increases, please call the office. DO NOT USE ICE. Do not eat until the anesthetic wears off as to prevent you from biting your cheek or tongue. DO NOT chew or bite on the root canalled until it has the final restoration (i.e. crown) as there is a possibility of splitting the tooth.

We close the tooth with a soft temporary filling after each visit and it is not unusual for a thin layer to wear off but eating on it could pull it out. However, if you think the entire temporary filling has come out, contact the office.

Also call us if you develop any of the following:

1. Swelling inside or out of the mouth
2. An allergic reaction to the medication such as rash, hives, or itching (stop immediately- if severe go to the emergency dept. at a hospital)
3. A return of the original symptoms or bite feels uneven.