

After your Root Canal

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We hope this sheet will answer most commonly asked questions concerning root canals.

Q: Will it hurt after the numbness goes away?

A: Yes. All teeth hurt to some degree following root canal treatment. Usually nonprescription pain medication i.e.: Ibuprophen (Advil) will control the discomfort. Stronger pain medication may be prescribed if necessary. To stay on top of the pain, take 600mg of Ibuprophen every 4-6 hrs for 3 days. You make skip the dosage when sleeping.

Q: How can the tooth hurt if the nerve is gone?

A: Your tooth resides in a living bony socket. The pain comes from infection and/or inflammation in the bone along the outside of the tooth. Medication will control this, only time will heal it.

Q: What can I eat and when?

A: You may eat and drink anything you want. Due to the normal soreness present, you will probably want to chew on the opposite side for 24-48 hours.

Q: Am I finished?

A: Some canals are finished in one visit; others need two or more visits due to the amount of infection present and /or complexity of treatment. If you are advised to make another appointment within a few weeks, you still need more treatment on the tooth.

Q: Will I need a crown?

A: After a root canal the tooth becomes very brittle due to lack of blood supply. Without a crown the tooth will eventually fracture off and crumble. Often times the tooth cannot be saved and needs an extraction. To ensure this does not happen, you will need to make your crown appointment as soon as your schedule allows.