

KILLIAN HILL DENTAL CARE

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Post-Operative Instructions for Root Canals

1. If you received novocaine today, do not eat while the numbness is still present.
2. If a partial root canal (pulpotomy) was done today:
 - a. Only part of the nerve was removed today and medication was placed inside the tooth. This is only a temporary procedure to relieve a toothache, to wait for better financial ability, or to buy time until a root canal appointment can be scheduled.
 - b. A toothache may be present for 24-48 hours after this treatment. Advil®, aspirin or Tylenol® usually will relieve this discomfort. If it does not, please call the office for a prescription.
 - c. To emphasize again, this is only a temporary measure. It may last up to six months. Arrangements must be made to complete the root canal before further complications develop.
 - d. If this procedure was performed on a baby tooth that has a permanent one underneath it, then you will not have to finish the root canal. We will hope that the baby tooth will be lost naturally before any discomfort starts.
3. If the root canal was started today:
 - a. The most common problem associated with a root canal is tenderness while chewing on the tooth. This is due to inflammation and fluid buildup around the end of the roots. Advil® is best for alleviating this condition (Tylenol® for those who can't take Advil® or aspirin). It would be best not to chew on the tooth while the symptoms are still present.
 - b. In some instances, the tooth may ache and throb. You will be given a prescription for pain medication in case this occurs.
 - c. If swelling occurs or if a lot of discomfort lasts more than a couple of days, then please get the antibiotic prescription filled, and take it as directed. Be certain to finish all of the tablets of any antibiotic prescription.
 - d. An occasional tooth will produce pain over and above what the prescribed pain medication will alleviate. If this happens, please call the office.
4. Once the root canal has been completed:
 - a. Any of the complications stated above can occur.
 - b. The tooth will need a final restoration (the fee for this is never included in the fee for the root canal). Some front teeth can be filled, but most teeth will need a crown (cap) to protect the tooth from a probable fracture.

Thank you for being a good patient. If you have any problems or any other questions that were not discussed here, please feel free to call our office at any time. If you have a dental emergency that cannot wait until normal office hours, then call Dr. Gangwisch at his home at 770-978-6661, or Dr. Hulsey at his home at 678-377-1347.