

ROOT CANAL THERAPY

Patient Name: _____

Date: _____

I understand dentistry is not an exact science and there is no guarantee of results. When undergoing root canal treatment there are certain risks and the potential for unsuccessful results.

Root canal treatment is also called endodontic treatment. Endodontic treatment involves removing the nerve and other tissues (known as pulp) from inside the tooth and from the roots. This is accomplished by creating an opening through the enamel of the tooth to gain access to the pulp. The pulp is removed and the canals where it is located are cleaned and shaped. The canals are then filled and sealed. Following a root canal, the tooth may need a final restoration such as a crown to function properly.

Root canal treatment can be necessary due to pain, infection, decay, a broken tooth or teeth or other condition. The benefit of the treatment will be relief of current symptoms and the continuance of any additional recommended treatment which may permit the tooth to be restored to its proper function

Alternatives to endodontic treatment depend on my diagnosis; however the most common alternatives are:

- Extraction of the tooth/teeth
- Extraction followed by an implant and crown
- Extraction followed by a bridge or partial denture
- No treatment which could worsen the condition leading to severe pain and swelling, infection which could be fatal, loss of the tooth/teeth

Root canal treatment, like all dental care has risks. The most common risks associated with this treatment include but are not limited to:

- Swelling and discomfort postoperatively
- Bleeding and postoperative infection accompanied by malaise or fever which may require immediate additional treatment
- Injury to a nerve resulting in numbness, burning or tingling of the chin, lip, cheek, gum on the side on this the procedure in being performed as well as loss of taste in the case of the tongue. These nerve injuries can last for several weeks, months or in rare instances, be permanent.
- Drug and medication reactions, although rare, may occur. These reactions could include redness, swelling, pain, itching, vomiting and/or anaphylactic shock
- Breaking of the canal instrument which may require further treatment and decrease the success of the procedure
- Sinus involvement which would require additional surgery

Once root canal treatment has started, it is imperative the treatment be completed. Additional appointments may be required.

By signing below, I am acknowledging I have read or had this document read to me in its entirety, have had the chance to ask questions and have them answered to my satisfaction so that I feel I understand the information as it is presented. I understand the potential risks, complications and side effects. I have elected to proceed with this dental treatment after having considered both the known and unknown risks, complications, side effects and alternative treatment methods.

Patient (or Legal Guardian) Signature: _____

Patient Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

Doctor's Signature: _____

Date: _____

SAMPLE

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