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### **AFTER COMPLETION OF ROOT CANAL THERAPY**

Your endodontic (root canal) treatment is now complete. Your comfort is important to us. Taking an analgesic before the numbness wears off may help you maintain an acceptable comfort level. Please wait to eat or drink on the affected side until after the numbness has worn off.

Discomfort in the area for a day or two (or even up to a few weeks) is common. The gums may be sore, and the tooth may be tender when biting or chewing. This occurs because of conditions which existed before treatment was started and because of the manipulation of the tooth during treatment. **Avoid chewing on the affected side until all tenderness is gone.** Warm salt water rinse will help. If Ibuprofen can be taken, 600 mg every 6 hours or 800 mg every 8 hours taken on a regular schedule for the next two days works best to help reduce inflammation in the tissues and should relieve most of the discomfort.

Please take prescribed medications (antibiotics and/or pain medications) as directed. A prescription for pain is meant to help you with unusual discomfort occurring during the first couple of days. In the unlikely event that swelling, fever, or severe pain should occur, please call this office promptly.

The opening in the tooth through which root canal treatment was done has been sealed with a **temporary filling**. Until your appointment for placement of the permanent restoration, it is important that this filling stays intact. **IF AN APPOINTMENT TO PLACE A FINAL RESTORATION HAS NOT BEEN MADE WITH YOUR REGULAR DENTIST, PLEASE TELEPHONE THEM TO SCHEDULE THIS APPOINTMENT PROMPTLY.** Many times the endodontically treated tooth has been weakened by previous decay and fillings. It is often necessary for this tooth to receive additional protection in the form of a crown. This will protect the tooth against future fracture and decay, and protect the root canal system from possible contamination. **Delay in obtaining a final restoration may result in fracture and/or possible loss of the tooth.**

A note and radiograph will be sent to your dentist informing him/her that treatment has been completed.

If you have any questions or problems concerning your treatment, please do not hesitate to call.

**Thank you for entrusting your care to us**