

DENTAL ILLUSIONS

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Endodontic Information and Consent

We would like our patients to be informed about the various procedures involved in a root canal (endodontic) treatment and have their consent before beginning treatment. Root canal treatment is performed in an attempt to save a tooth that may otherwise need to be removed. The following answers some common questions.

What is root canal treatment?

Root canal treatment is the procedure of cleaning and filling the inside of a tooth that has become diseased or infected. Your treatment may take more than one visit. During that time you may experience some soreness and discomfort in and around the tooth being treated. Root canal treatment may allow the tooth to remain in the mouth for many years, if not a lifetime.

What are the risks of root canal treatment?

With a success rate of approximately 90-95%, root canal treatment is considered a reliable dental procedure. The risks include, but are not limited to, the possibility of pain, infection, swelling, perforations (extra openings) of the crown or root of the tooth; damage to the existing restorations (crowns or fillings) and breakage of a portion of an instrument that cannot be removed. During treatment complications may be discovered that compromise or make treatment impossible, or may require dental surgery. These complications may include, but are not limited to, blocked canals due to fillings, prior treatment, or natural calcifications, broken instruments, curved roots, periodontal (gum) disease and cracks or fractures of the teeth. Prescribed medications may cause drowsiness, lack of awareness and coordination and impair decision-making skills. These effects may also be intensified by the use of alcohol, tranquilizers, sedatives or other drugs. It is not advisable to operate any vehicle or hazardous device until recovered from the effect of the medications.

What are the alternatives to root canal treatment?

These include no treatment, waiting for more definite development of symptoms, and tooth extraction. Risks involved in these choices might include, but are not limited to, pain, infection, swelling and loss of teeth.

What are the patient's responsibilities?

It is important to provide a complete and accurate medical history. Please understand that after a root canal treatment it is essential to have a permanent covering (crown or filling) or other restoration placed as soon as possible.

By signing below you acknowledge that you have read this and understand the information presented, all questions have been answered satisfactorily and authorize that doctor to perform described procedures and any others that may be necessary.

Signature _____

Date _____

Tooth _____