

# Contemporary Endodontics

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## Consent For Root Canal Therapy

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tooth # \_\_\_\_\_

1. Root Canal Therapy is about 95 percent successful. Many factors influence the treatment outcome. Patients health, bone support, strength of the tooth including possible fractures, shape and condition of the root and nerve canal(s), etc.
2. Teeth treated with root canal therapy must be protected during treatment. Between appointments, your tooth will have a temporary filling. If this should come out, please call the office (609-987-0772) and arrange to have it replaced.
3. The tooth may normally be sensitive following appointments and can even remain tender for several weeks after treatment is completed. If sensitivity persists, and does not seem to be getting better, please let the doctor know.
4. Fractures are one of the main reasons why root canals fail. Unfortunately, some cracks that extend from the crown down into the root are invisible and hard to detect. They can occur from trauma, biting on hard objects, clenching and grinding or normal wear and tear. Whether the fracture occurs before or after the root canal treatment, it may require extraction of the tooth.
5. Since teeth after root canal therapy are more brittle than other teeth, we usually recommend a restoration (**only or Crown done by your General Dentist**) within a reasonable period of time (3-4 weeks) after the root canal is completed to prevent future damage. If for financial reasons you cannot afford a crown, a permanent filling should be placed until you can afford to have a crown put on the tooth.
6. Follow-ups in three months are necessary to check on **abscesses** to see whether or not they have healed.
7. Teeth treated with root canals can still decay, but since the nerve is gone, there will be no pain. As with other teeth, the proper care of these teeth consists of good home care, a sensible diet, and periodic dental checkups.
8. With some teeth, root canal therapy alone may not be sufficient. For example, if the canal(s) are severely curved or calcified, or if there is a substantial or longstanding infection or if a file becomes separated within a canal, the tooth may remain sensitive and a minor surgical procedure may be necessary to resolve the problem.
9. Local anesthesia will be administered before the procedure is performed. Sometimes, parasthesia (residual numbness) may occur following the procedure. This usually resolves but can take 1-3 months.
10. There are alternatives to root canal therapy. They include no treatment at all, extraction with nothing to fill the space and extraction followed by a bridge, partial denture or implant to fill the space.

The nature of root canal therapy has been explained to me and I have had a chance to have my questions answered. I understand that dentistry is not an exact science and success with root canals cannot be guaranteed. In light of the above information, I authorize the doctor to proceed with treatment.

Patient Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_