

Emergency Tooth Doctor, P.C.

CONSENT FOR ROOT CANAL THERAPY

I understand that while most root canals are successful, a small percentage of patients may not respond to treatment and could experience procedural failure and ultimate tooth loss.

1. **The success of root canal therapy can be influenced by many factors.** Your general health, adequate bone support and gum attachment, the shape and condition of the roots and the nerve canals, the quality of previous dental care, and pre-existing fractures are but a few.
2. **Teeth treated with root canal therapy are still susceptible to decay. Because the nerve is gone, there should be no pain. However, the treated tooth may remain sensitive for several days following your appointment.** If this sensitivity persists and does not seem to be getting better please phone the office for an appointment. Usually, administration of the appropriate medication quickly resolves the problem. It is normal for treated teeth to be sensitive for some time after the final appointment and to feel "different" for an additional period of time. Good oral hygiene and periodic check-ups are necessary for maintaining your over-all dental health.
3. **In some cases, regular root canal therapy alone may not be sufficient.** If the canals are severely curved or calcified, or if an instrument separates in a canal, your tooth may remain uncomfortable and may require surgical intervention at some point in the future.
4. **Root fracture is one of the primary reasons for endodontic failure.** Unfortunately, some "cracks" extend from the crown into the roots and may be clinically undetectable. These may be the result of biting stresses, clenching, grinding, or other traumas to your teeth. Regardless of the timing or cause of the fracture, the ultimate outcome may be extraction.
5. **Teeth treated with root canal therapy are more brittle and require crowning or capping to preserve your tooth.** On rare occasions, the tooth may still fracture resulting in failure in spite of being crowned.
6. **Inadvertent breakage of files or instruments within the root canal system are also a risk.** These cases that are unable to be retrieved or included as part of the finished Root Canal Therapy may require a referral to a specialist called an Endodontist at patients own expense.
7. **Alternatives to root canal therapy are extraction and subsequent follow-up or no treatments at all.**

The nature of root canal therapy has been thoroughly explained and I have had the opportunity to ask questions which have been satisfied. By my signature I authorize Dr. _____ to proceed with treatment(s) as presented.

Please check if this applies:

- Gross Pulpal Debridement:** I understand that a gross pulpal debridement is done on a primary or permanent tooth for the relief of acute pain prior to conventional root canal therapy. This procedure involves opening the tooth and removing infected tissue to relieve pressure. Although a gross pulpal debridement might reduce the pain in an infected tooth, it is not a substitute for a root canal. I understand that it is considered to be the initial step in root canal therapy, and I have been advised to return within 30 days to complete my root canal therapy.

PATIENT NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

DATE

SIGNATURE (Guardian if patient is a minor)

Tooth #