

Consent for Root Canal Treatment

This is my consent for the doctors or North East Dental Group and their staff to examine and perform root canal therapy for my tooth and other procedures deemed necessary or advisable to complete the agreed upon treatment plan.

1. **The success of root canal therapy is influenced by many factors.** Your general health, adequate gum attachment and bone support, shape and condition of the roots and nerve canals, quality of previous dental care and pre-existing root fractures, all of which can affect individual healing.
2. **Teeth treated with root canal therapy can still decay, but because the nerve is gone there will be no pain.** Other possible complications include infection, bleeding, loss of sensation in the area and tooth loss. Good oral hygiene and periodic check ups are necessary for ensuring the success of your treatment.
3. **The treated teeth may remain sensitive following your appointment.** If sensitivity persists and does not seem to get better, please phone the office for an appointment. It is, however, normal for a treated tooth to be sensitive for one to two weeks following your root canal.
4. **In some teeth, regular root canal therapy alone may not be sufficient.** If the canals are severely curved or calcified, there is substantial infection in the bone around the roots, or an instrument breaks and remains within the canal, the tooth may remain sensitive and a surgical procedure may be necessary to resolve the problem.
5. **Root fracture is one of the main reasons why root canal treatment fails.** Unfortunately, some cracks that extend from the crown down into the roots are invisible and undetectable. They can occur on uncrowned teeth from injury, biting on hard objects, and habitual clenching or grinding. Whether the fracture occurs before or after root canal, the tooth will most likely still require extraction.

6. **Treated teeth may be more brittle than other teeth.** After root canal, it is advisable to cap or crown a tooth to prevent further damage that may result in losing the tooth. In rare occasions the tooth may still fracture in spite of a crown.

7. **There are alternatives to root canal therapy.** These include waiting for other definitive signs and symptoms in the affected area, as well as extraction. Possible risks associated with these choices include pain, swelling, infection and loss of teeth.

8. **Follow up care.** Upon completion of your root canal, it is important that you return to our office for permanent restoration of your tooth.

Informed Consent:

I have read this consent form and discussed its contents and the specific information provided to my satisfaction. I certify that I have been given an opportunity to read and fully understand the terms and conditions of the above consent. I hereby give my consent to be examined and treated with root canal therapy for tooth # _____.

Patient: _____ Date: _____

Doctor: _____

Witness: _____