

## NORTHWEST DENTAL CENTRE

# ROOT CANAL THERAPY

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- Root Canal Therapy is about 95% successful. Many factors can influence the treatment outcome; including the patient's general health, bone support around the tooth, strength of the tooth including possible fracture lines, shape and condition of the root and nerve canal, etc.
- Teeth treated with Root Canal Therapy must be protected and isolated during treatment. Between appointments the tooth will have a temporary filling.
- Root Canal treated teeth may become sensitive following appointments and may even remain tender for a time after the treatment is completed. Try to avoid the tooth for a few days. If sensitivity persists and does not seem to be getting better, even several weeks after treatment is completed, please let us know.
- Fractures are one of the main reasons why root canal therapy may fail. Some cracks that extend from the crown down into the root are invisible and hard to detect. They can occur on uncrowned teeth from traumatic injury, biting on hard objects, habitual clenching or grinding habits, or even from normal wear and tear. The best protection for this tooth is to protect it with a crown after the Root Canal Therapy is completed to prevent tooth fracture.
- Teeth treated with Root Canal Therapy may still decay, but since the nerve is gone, there will be no pain when the cavity grows. As with other teeth, the proper care consists of good home care, a sensible diet and regular dental checkups.
- With some teeth, regular Root Canal Therapy alone may not be sufficient. For example, if the canal(s) are severely bent or calcified, if there is substantial or long standing infection in the bone around the roots, or if an instrument becomes separated within a canal, the tooth may remain sensitive and a surgical procedure may be necessary to resolve the problem.
- There are alternatives available to Root Canal Therapy, such as extraction of the tooth and replacement with an Implant, Bridge or partial denture.
- Any medications prescribed are to increase or speed healing and should be taken as directed.

**If you have any questions or concerns, experience any unusual symptoms like uncontrollable pain, excessive or severe bleeding, marked fever or excessive warm swelling, or anything that you feel is out of the ordinary, remember that we are only a phone call away at: (403) 282-7933.**

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