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COSMETIC & FAMILY DENTISTRY

"We Create Beautiful Smiles"

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Instructions Following your Root Canal

Your root canal (or tooth rebuilding with a post), was completed today. Give your tooth a rest and chew on the other side for several days. If you feel any discomfort, let us know. If you feel any swelling, we will prescribe an antibiotic for you. If your tooth hurts when you bite down, your bite may be a little high, and we can easily smooth the tooth off. Return ASAP for protection of a Build-up. Keep in mind that some tenderness is to be expected following this procedure.

During endodontic treatment the nerve, blood and nutrient supply to the tooth is removed. This will cause the tooth to become brittle and prone to fracturing which can result in the need to extract the tooth. In many cases a full coverage crown restoration (cap) may be recommended to prevent this from happening. **BE VERY CAREFUL CHEWING ON THIS TOOTH UNTIL WE CAN PROTECT IT WITH A CROWN OR CAP!!!**

Endodontic treatment can take 1, 2, or 3 appointments depending on each case. During this 1st visit, most of the infected nerve has been removed. Since there was some infection left in the tooth, the root canal was not finished today. We may have placed some medicine on cotton pellets in your tooth and left the tooth open so that drainage can occur without building up pressure or pain. The cotton will also keep food out. Not all the cotton will come out, and even if it does, nothing bad will occur.

It is possible to experience any of the following symptoms after any one of these appointments: sensitivity to hot and/or cold; sensitivity to pressure; possible swelling.

It is difficult to predict which symptoms, if any, you may experience and to what extent. In complicated cases, pain medication may be necessary.

If you experience swelling, call our office; it may be necessary to prescribe an antibiotic for you.

A temporary filling may be used to seal the tooth between visits. The bad taste you may experience is from the medicine and the draining infection. Take medications as prescribed. We will finish the treatment at your next visit. Be gentle on the tooth while eating until the final restoration is placed.

Call our office if any unusual symptoms occur.