

## **POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS/ CONSENT FOR ENDODONTIC TREATMENT**

The trauma to, or infection in, your tooth has compromised the health of its pulp that contains the blood vessels and nerves. In order to save your tooth from extraction, endodontic (root canal) treatment was necessary. This procedure removes the infection/nerve from inside the tooth. Root canals are 90 to 95% successful and therefore occasionally can have complications. Following these instructions can reduce the chance of post-operative problems and complications.

1. Post-operative discomfort can last from a few hours to several days. Take Advil or Extra-Strength Tylenol as prescribed while discomfort lasts provided it doesn't interfere with existing medication.
2. Take any antibiotics (if prescribed by doctor) as prescribed until completely finished. These antibiotics will reduce any swelling that may have occurred but it may take several days.
3. Avoid chewing on that side for 24 to 48 hours after treatment (generally soft foods).
4. Any start/increase in swelling should be brought to the doctor's attention.
5. Following treatment, the tooth will be brittle and subject to fracture. A restoration (filling, crown and/or post and core) will be necessary to restore the tooth to function. The fee for this procedure will be additional. Failure to follow through with the restoration may result in fracture, infection, and/or possible loss of the tooth.
6. A failure rate of 5-10% exists and can occur from root fracture/perforation/ file separation. These complications may require additional corrective treatment depending upon doctor's judgment.
7. Existing dental conditions (i.e. periodontal disease/lack of tooth structure) can compromise root canals effectiveness.

Any unusual pain, swelling or discomforts please feel free to call the office or my cell phone @ 610-308-6609. More information is located on our website at [www.watson-dental.com](http://www.watson-dental.com).

Dr. Tom Watson

