

Surgical Root Canal Therapy Instructions

Why Surgical Root Canal Therapy?

There are some cases in which a surgical procedure called surgical root canal therapy may be required. This treatment may be necessary in the following instances.

1. Root canal treatment has been completed and there is persistent swelling at the end of the root.
2. Root canal treatment was not completed to the end of the root(s) due to blockages or changes in the normal anatomy.
3. There is persistent pain following completion of root canal treatment.
4. There is aggressive infection within the bone and needs to be removed physically.

Pre-Operative Instructions

If you are taking any Aspirin, ASA, Blood Thinners (Coumadin or Warfarin) or Anti-Inflammatory medications we ask that you stop taking them 1 week prior to your surgical root canal therapy. Patients who have been placed on daily therapeutic aspirin to prevent strokes and heart attacks should discuss the advisability of going off aspirin with their family doctor or specialist.

Post-Operative Instructions

After surgical root canal therapy has been performed, there are post-operative instructions that must be followed in order to aid in the healing process.

The First 24 Hours

You will need to care for the area the most within the first twenty four hours following the treatment. Immediately after your treatment it is very important to place an icepack on the outside of the treated area. Ten minutes on – ten minutes off for the remainder of the first day. This will aid you in any swelling that may occur. Please keep in mind that there may be increased swelling on the third or fourth day following your treatment and that this may be part of normal healing. We also recommend that you sleep with your head in an elevated position as this minimizes potential swelling in the surgical site.

Your Diet

Your diet for the first day should consist of soft foods; such as pastas, eggs, soups, etc... No hot fluids, such as coffee should be ingested- keep fluids at a lukewarm temperature. Naturally, we would like you to keep food away from the surgical site.

Other Precautions

Keep talking to a minimum for the first day and do not lift your lip in order to look at the surgical site. If you are a smoker we would ask that you refrain from smoking for at least 48 hours.

The Day After Your Treatment

On the day following treatment, you will start to care for the area by rinsing between meals and following with Peridex an oral rinse provided by our office. Do not use any other mouthwash solutions at this time.

Keeping The Area Clean

Brushing the gums where the stitches have been placed is also very important. By brushing very lightly, you will remove plaque- which is bacteria- from the surgical site and therefore prevent any problems with healing. You will continue to brush and rinse until you return to our office to have the stitches removed. Just remember to keep the area clean!!!

Antibiotics

Please continue to take your antibiotics until finished and your pain medications if required for pain and swelling.

Feel Free to Call Us...

If anything out of the ordinary is experienced, please feel free to contact our office at 905-849-7203, and we will be able to answer any questions or concerns.