



INFORMED CONSENT for ROOT CANAL TREATMENT

1. Endodontic therapy is treatment to save a tooth that otherwise would be extracted.
2. All medical procedures have inherent risks and although there is a very low occurrence, all precautions are taken to minimize these risks but they sometimes do happen. **By having root canal procedures performed, the following are the inherit risks or conditions:**
 - a. Postoperative discomfort or swelling that may last for several days or weeks.
 - b. Infection or continued infection that could require endodontic surgery or extraction.
 - c. Numbness of the lip, chin, cheeks, or tongue due to receiving anesthesia for the lower teeth, that could last for days or months.
 - d. Restricted jaw opening (mainly due to anesthesia) which may last several days or longer.
 - e. Treatment failures rarely occur, but if it does, the treatment may have to be redone, root canal surgery may be required, or the tooth may have to be extracted.
 - f. There is a lower success rate in teeth that had previous root canal treatment.
 - g. Separation or breakage of root canal instruments during treatment, which may in the judgment of the doctor be left in the treated root canal or require surgery for removal.
 - h. Calcified canals or canals blocked by a foreign object may require additional treatment such as root canal surgery, root amputation, or tooth extraction.
 - i. Perforation of the root canal with instruments may require additional corrective treatment or may result in tooth loss.
 - j. Chipping or fracturing of porcelain crowns. Existing crowns may or may not be usable after the procedure for the tooth (due to decay or loss of structural support) and will possibly need to be replaced by the general dentist.
3. **After the root canal treatment is completed, the tooth will become brittle and must be protected against fracture by a permanent crown (if it does not already have one).** If there is any delay in having the crown done after the root canal treatment, there is a risk of tooth fracture or losing the temporary filling that will hurt the chances of saving the tooth or the need for more root canal therapy. It is recommended that you contact your general dentist's office **immediately** following treatment to make an appointment for the restoration (crown or filling) and the tooth should be restored as soon as possible ideally within 1-2 weeks from the date of the root canal treatment.
4. Root canal treatment is a procedure to retain a tooth which may otherwise require extraction. Although root canal therapy has a very high degree of clinical success, it is still a biological procedure. **No warranty or guarantee of success can be given for root canal treatment.**
5. By signing below, I understand the method and manner of the proposed treatment, the desirability of root canal treatment, and the consequences of having the tooth extracted. I have had the opportunity to discuss my treatment with the doctor and ask any questions I have about the procedure.

Tooth/Teeth under treatment: _____

Patient (or Parent/Guardian) Signature	Patient (or Parent/Guardian) Printed Name	Date
Witness Signature	Witness Printed Name	Date