

TROY FAMILY DENTAL

(618) 667-8020

www.TroyFamilyDental.com

Root Canal Therapy

Your tooth has a root canal. Inside every tooth is a very small cavity containing nerves, blood vessels, and live soft tissue. This is called dental pulp. Occasionally the dental pulp (nerve) is damaged from trauma, deep decay, large fillings, crowns or other factors. When the dental pulp (nerve) dies, the result is pain and bone destruction visible on dental x-rays.

Removing the dental pulp (nerve) is a delicate procedure requiring the following:

- 1) A small hole is made in the tooth to allow access to the dental pulp (nerve)
- 2) Using a series of small files, the dental pulp (nerve) is removed from inside the tooth
- 3) When the dental pulp (nerve) is removed the cavity inside the tooth is filled with a "rubber like" material to seal the void inside the tooth
- 4) If the tooth has been severely weakened, a supportive post will be placed internally with a crown (cap) for strength.

Root canal therapy is 95-98% successful. Within a few weeks your tooth should feel normal to bite. However, it is possible for root canal teeth to feel pain. This comes from the periodontal ligament which connects the root or roots to the bone. If a tooth has or develops a cracked root, your tooth may become sore to bite. Infrequently, a root canal tooth can become re-infected. This results from micro leakage over time under the crown or other type of filling. If this occurs the tooth may become tender to bite pressure. To help prevent this it is important to maintain good oral hygiene such as regular brushing, flossing, mouth rinses, and routine cleanings in our office to keep tartar buildup to a minimum. If your tooth ever becomes tender to bite pressure, please call our office at 618.667.8020.

I was given post-operative instructions and the opportunity to ask questions.

Patient Signature

Date

Doctor Signature

Date

Witness

Date