

Westgag Dental

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ROOT CANAL TREATMENT

1) WHAT TO EXPECT: It is normal for teeth to remain tender, especially to chewing, for a few days after completion of a root canal. If the infection was severe or if you were in a lot of pain before the root canal, it can take a few months before the tooth is completely comfortable. Please call the office if you experience increasing pain or swelling.

2) MEDICATIONS: Please ensure that you take any medication that was prescribed in order to expedite the healing process. These can include the following:

**** Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents:** Advil, Motrin, Ibuprofen , Aspirin

**** Steroidal anti-inflammatory agents:** Dexasone

**** Antibiotics:** Amoxicillin, Metronidazole, Clindamycin, Erythromycin

3) FURTHER TREATMENT: Sometimes a root canal can cause the tooth to discolour or even fracture as it becomes brittle over time. A gold or porcelain **crown** is normally placed over the tooth to strengthen its structure and improve appearance. This is usually done 2-3 months after completion of the root canal to ensure adequate healing has taken place and that the tooth is comfortable.

We will take an x-ray after one year to monitor tissue healing. Although more than 95% of root canal treatments are successful, a small percentage of cases do not heal completely and there will be a return of pain or swelling. These teeth can still be saved with a minor surgical procedure. In rare cases, a tooth must be extracted.

Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions