

**PATIENT INFORMATION AND CONSENT FORM  
OUTLINE OF ENDODONTIC (ROOT CANAL) TREATMENT**

Endodontic treatment (root canal) is performed in an attempt to retain a tooth which otherwise might require extraction. Treatment generally takes between one and three appointments, and is usually performed through an opening in the crown of the tooth (non-surgical approach). Occasionally, it must be done through an opening in the gums next to the tooth (surgical approach).

Although endodontic treatment enjoys a high degree of success, no guarantee of success can be given. In some cases, a tooth may require retreatment, surgery or even extraction. During your course of treatment, every effort will be made to achieve a successful result and keep you as comfortable as possible.

If root canal treatment is needed in a tooth which already has a filling or a crown, it may become necessary to remove the existing restoration. All treated teeth will require a final restoration. Following completion of endodontic treatment, you must return to your dentist for placement of the appropriate restoration for the treated tooth. It is emphasized that this be done as soon as possible following treatment in order to protect the tooth from subsequent fracture, decay and/or recontamination.

**RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH ENDODONTIC TREATMENT (ROOT CANAL)**

Although infrequent, endodontic treatment carries potential risks and side effects. Some of these are:

1. Pain and/or swelling after treatment.
2. Temporary or permanent numbness of the lip, cheek or tongue.
3. Possible sinus exposure in upper teeth.
4. Medication or anesthetic reactions or allergies.
5. Small instrument fragments may separate and lodge within the root canal.
6. Blocked, ledged and/or calcified canals.
7. Penetrations or perforations may be created in the roots as difficulty is encountered in finding the root canal.
8. Roots may develop cracks prior to, during or following treatment.
9. Underextension or overextension of filling material beyond the root end.
10. Existing gold or porcelain crowns may fracture or dislodge during treatment.
11. Jaw muscle spasms or soreness may occur in some patients during and/or following treatment. If you have a history of jaw or muscle spasms, please let us know.

**ALTERNATIVES TO ENDODONTIC TREATMENT AND ASSOCIATED RISKS**

**Extraction of tooth. Risks include:**

- a) Loss of jaw support.
- b) Drifting or tipping of adjacent teeth, leading to problems in chewing, gum disease, and pain or tenderness from the jaw (temporomandibular) joint.
- c) Need for replacement of extracted tooth with an artificial tooth. Your dentist can discuss in detail the risks and options of this procedure.

**Refusing treatment or waiting for further symptoms. Risks include:**

- a) Possible pain, swelling and persistence of the infection within the bone surrounding the affected tooth/teeth.
- b) Formation of abscesses in the mouth that can spread to surrounding tissues.
- c) Formation of cysts in the jaw bone surrounding the affected tooth/teeth and often spreading to involve adjacent teeth.

**Persistent delay in treatment may ultimately require loss of a tooth that could otherwise have been successfully treated and retained.**

I acknowledge having read the foregoing and understand its contents, and have been given the opportunity to ask any questions regarding endodontic treatment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient Signature (Parent/Guardian Signature if patient is a minor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date