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Instructions for Patients After a Root Canal

This sheet is for patients who received root canal therapy today. Below find some general guidelines that will help to ensure a successful outcome.

1. Most times, root canals are completed in one appointment. If your root canal was not completed, it is recommended to schedule the next appointment within 10 days.
2. Your tooth has a temporary filling in it. Be gentle with it because your tooth is very brittle until a permanent filling or crown is placed. If possible, chew on the other side until the next appointment.
3. It is likely that the tooth will ache for a few days and will be especially sensitive to biting over the next few days. This should go away within a week of treatment. It is recommended to take ibuprofen (motrin or advil) to help with the pain and inflammation. If pain is not taken away with ibuprofen, you can **combine Ibuprofen and Tylenol** (acetaminophen). They are different medications and can be taken at the same time.
4. If an antibiotic was prescribed, it is important to finish the antibiotic completely even if pain and symptoms go away before the medication is finished.
5. If the root canal was done on a back tooth (premolar or molar), it is important to cover the tooth with a dental crown as soon as possible. This helps to prevent the tooth from fracturing. If a tooth fractures badly before a crown is placed, it may need to be extracted.

Call our office 215-698-2710 during normal hours or your local emergency room after hours in case of severe bleeding, pain, continued swelling or a reaction to medications.