

INFORMED CONSENT FOR ENDODONTIC TREATMENT

The recommendation that one or more of your teeth receive endodontic therapy (root canal treatment) is based upon your symptoms, examination in your mouth, the treatment we have discussed and your choice. Possible alternative methods of treatment include: no treatment or extraction of the tooth.

Endodontic therapy (meaning “within the tooth”) is the treatment of the canal or pulp chamber that lies within the tooth and its root. When completed, root canalled teeth generally feel like your other teeth and may have an excellent chance of remaining in your mouth for as long as your other teeth.

Endodontic therapy is accomplished by using a local anesthetic to numb the tooth involved. Access to the pulp chamber (where the nerve and blood vessel are located) is gained by using a drill to open a hole through the top of the tooth. Small handheld and rotary instruments are used to remove the tissue inside the tooth and gain access to the canals in the root. Delicate files are then used to smooth and shape each canal. The canals will be sterilized with medication, and then completely filled with inert material prior to placement of the final restoration.

This therapy is considered to be very safe and effective, with a success rate of about 95%. Nevertheless, we want you to be aware of the risks and consequences of having endodontic therapy performed.

Your treatment may take several visits over a few weeks to complete. During that time, you may experience some discomfort in and around the tooth being completed. Usually this discomfort resolves within a few weeks. However, despite the high success rate of this procedure, there is a chance that the root canal will not resolve your pain. In such cases, additional treatment may be necessary, resulting in additional charges to you. Examples of other treatment needed include: retreatment, root tip surgery, or even extraction.

Once a tooth has received root canal treatment, it tends to be more brittle and weak. For this reason, we may recommend placing a crown on the tooth for its protection. Without this protection, there is a significant chance of the tooth fracturing which then may require its extraction.

Occasionally, one of the delicate instruments used for this procedure will break off inside the tooth. If we are unable to remove the broken piece of instrument, it may be close enough to the end of the root that we may elect to leave it in place and fill the canal behind the obstruction.

If, however, this is not an option or if it is attempted without success, you may require other treatment at additional charges to you.

KOCZARSKI *Aesthetic & Laser Dentistry*

I understand that the medications, drugs, anesthetics and prescriptions taken for this procedure may cause drowsiness and lack of awareness and coordination. I further understand that drugs and anesthetics may cause unanticipated reactions, which might require medical treatment. I also understand that I should not consume alcohol or other drugs because they can increase these effects. I have been advised not to work and not to operate any vehicle or machinery until I have fully recovered from the effects of the medication.

We invite your questions concerning this or related procedures and their risks. By signing below, you acknowledge that you have read and understand this document and have all your questions answered satisfactorily.

Patient name

Procedure, tooth number

Signatures:

Patient/Guardian

Doctor

Date