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Instructions After Root Canal Therapy

We used a local anesthetic to thoroughly numb the area being treated. The numbness in your lips, teeth, and tongue might last for several hours after the procedure. You should avoid any chewing until the numbness has completely worn off.

Caring for your temporary crown or filling

- Avoid chewing gum and eating sticky or hard foods
- If possible, chew only on the opposite side of your mouth
- Continue to brush normally

What if my tooth hurts?

For the first few days after your root canal therapy, you may have some discomfort or sensitivity in the tooth that was treated, especially if there was pain and infection prior to the treatment. If antibiotics have been prescribed for the infection, it's important that you take them for the full length of time indicated on the prescription, even if all signs of the infection are gone. To control discomfort, we recommend that you take an over-the-counter pain reliever, following label directions. To further reduce pain and swelling, you can rinse three times a day with warm salt water. Dissolve a teaspoon of salt in a cup of warm water, then gently swish the water around the tooth and spit.

Caring for your permanent crown or filling

Your permanent crown or filling should look natural and feel comfortable. Continue to brush and floss regularly to ensure that your restored tooth stays healthy. Please be sure to call our office if:

- Your bite feels uneven
- Your tooth feels "tight" or you have difficulty flossing around the tooth
- You have persistent pain
- You have any questions or concerns about your restored tooth

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