

# After a Root Canal

After each appointment when anesthetic has been used, your lips, teeth and tongue may be numb for several hours. Avoid any chewing on treated side until the numbness wears off.

A temporary filling or crown is placed by your dentist to protect the tooth between appointments. Between appointments, it's common (and not a problem) for a small portion of your temporary filling or crown to wear away or break off. To protect the tooth and help keep your temporary in place:

- Avoid chewing sticky foods (especially gum).
- Avoid biting hard foods and hard substances, such as ice, fingernails and pencils
- Continue to brush and floss normally

It's normal to experience some discomfort for several days after a root canal therapy appointment (especially when chewing). It is not uncommon for a tooth to exhibit a dull ache after receiving root canal therapy. This should subside within a few days. To control discomfort and tenderness, take pain medication or antibiotics as recommended by Dr. Kella.

Usually, the last step of root canal treatment is the placement of a crown on the tooth. This covers and protects the tooth from breaking in the future. It is critical to have a crown placed on your treated tooth as soon as possible. Delay may result in fracture and/or possible loss of the tooth.

*If you have any questions, feel free to contact our office!*

