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Endo Release Form

Your comfort and understanding of the planned treatment is important to us. Please review the information provided. Acknowledge your understanding and consent with your signature.

Endodontic therapy, commonly referred to as a root canal is probably the most maligned of all dental procedures, but the pain typically associated with the treatment is really not deserved. For the majority of people undergoing treatment the process will be no more involved than having a filling placed.

What is a root canal?

Root canal therapy is the process by which your dentist treats the area inside a tooth that contains its pulp tissue or what is often called the nerve. In the situation that the pulp is diseased or injured and it can't repair itself, it dies. Root canal therapy includes the complete removal of the affected tissues in the pulp chamber and canals, the subsequent cleaning, shaping and decontamination of these structures with the use of files and irrigating solutions and the filling of the decontaminated canals with an inert filling, such as gutta percha and usually a eugenol based cement.

Why do I need a root canal?

The most common cause of pulp death is a cracked tooth or a deep cavity. Bacteria can invade your tooth through a loose filling, a cavity or a crack. Eventually, the bacteria may destroy the pulp. This may lead to the bone getting infected as bacteria escapes through the root openings. **The tooth will not heal by itself.** Without treatment, the infection will spread, bone around the tooth will degenerate and the tooth may fall out. Pain usually worsens. The only alternative is the extraction of the tooth which can cause surrounding teeth to shift, resulting in poor occlusion. **Though an extraction may be less expensive, the replacement of a missing tooth with a bridge or an implant can be much more costly.**

Symptoms: The inflammation and infection spread down the root canal, often causing sensitivity to hot and cold foods, throbbing, aching or pain when you chew. Pain may be prolonged or constant.

Safety and Success

Persons with damaged heart valves, particularly due to rheumatic fever are at increased risk for bacterial infection of the injured valve. Persons who have had rheumatic fever or who have heart murmurs from other causes must take antibiotics prior to this procedure.

Root Canal treatment has been practiced for over 70 years and is ADA approved. It is estimated that 24 million teeth are treated per year with root canal therapy. More than 95 % of root canal treatments are successful. **However, sometimes a case needs to be redone due to diseased canal offshoots that went unnoticed or are at right angles to the primary canal. On rare occasions it is possible a file that was used to clean and shape the canal make break within the canal and be irretrievable. In most cases**

this causes no problems, but it may be necessary to retreat the tooth. Occasionally, the therapy will fail altogether, marked by the return of pain. In this event, the tooth must be extracted.

Once it is determined that the treatment is successful, it is advised that this tooth be crowned to protect it from possible future breakage. Root canal filled teeth are brittle. Since root canals remove much of the tooth's structure and undermine its structural integrity it may also be necessary to do a buildup. This is done with composite filling material and will act as a stabilizing foundation for the placement of the crown. Placement of a crown is also recommended as the best way to seal the root canal tooth. If the tooth is not perfectly sealed a root canal can leak, causing eventual failure of the treatment.

Many people believe once a tooth has had a root canal, it cannot get decay. This is not true. A tooth with a root canal still has the ability to decay, and without proper home care and an adequate fluoride source the tooth can become severely decayed (often without the patient's knowledge since the nerve has been removed and there will be no pain perception). **Thus, non-restorable carious destruction is the main reason for extraction of teeth after root canal therapy. Therefore it is very important to have regular x-rays taken of the root canal to ensure that the tooth is not having any problems.**

I have read and understand the information presented regarding root canal treatment and I am in agreement with this procedure.

Patient: _____

Date: _____

(Signature)

Printed Name: _____

Witnessed by: _____