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### How long will I be numb?

Lips, teeth, cheek and/or tongue may be numb for several hours after the procedure. To avoid injury, you should avoid any chewing and hot beverages until the numbness has completely worn off. It is very easy to bite or burn your tongue, cheek or lip while you are numb.

### Is it normal for my gums or jaw to be sore?

Irritation to the gum tissue can occur from dental work. Rinsing your mouth 2-3 times per day with 1/2 tsp of warm salt water can help to alleviate discomfort. Injection sites can be sore for several days after your appointment. Over-the-counter pain medications work well to alleviate tenderness.

### Is it normal for my tooth to ache?

Is it not uncommon for a tooth to feel tender or even exhibit a dull ache over the next few days as your body undergoes the natural healing process. These symptoms are temporary (usually lasting less than one week) and usually respond well to over the counter pain medications.

### Why does my tooth feel different?

You may feel a slight indentation or rough area on the back of a 'front tooth' or the top or a 'back tooth'. This is where a temporary material was placed through the access that was made in the tooth. It is not unusual for a thin layer to wear off in-between appointments. However, if you think the entire filling has come out, please contact our office.

### Is it normal for my tooth to be sensitive?

Your tooth may be sensitive to biting pressure and may appear to feel loose. This is a normal response and is no cause for alarm.

### My bite feels off, is this normal?

If your bite feels uneven, please call our office so we can make a quick adjustment to the filling. Do not assume your bite will get better after a time. The tooth may become irritated, have an increased amount of temperature sensitivity, and a toothache may occur if the filling is not adjusted properly.

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If you have questions or concerns, please call the office so we may address them on a case-by-case basis.

**401 783-1530**

### Is it okay to eat on the tooth with the root canal?

Please avoid chewing on the tooth that had a root canal. Whenever possible, please try to chew on the opposite side of the treated tooth (as it is brittle) until the final restoration has been placed. The temporary filling will not permanently protect your tooth from the reinfection or fracture.

### Do I need any other treatment after a root canal?

A permanent restoration is required after a root canal is performed on a tooth. Depending on the location of the tooth, the type of restoration will vary. Most teeth will require some type of crown, although there are exceptions where a filling may be placed. This permanent restoration is used to avoid future tooth fractures as the tooth is 'hollowed out' from the root canal procedure.

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