# Root Canal Information and Consent Form

Root canal treatment is performed in an attempt to save a tooth that might otherwise need to be removed. It is necessary when the pulp (nerves and blood vessels) inside the tooth become infected or injured. Without treatment, these nerves and blood vessels will eventually die, and the necrotic tissue may cause an abscess or chronic infection in the future.

A root canal involves opening the tooth, exposing and removing the diseased pulp, and cleaning and shaping the canals in order to place a rubber replacement material inside the tooth canals. This may be done in a single visit or multiple visits, depending on the amount of infection present and the difficulty of the access to the root canals. If this is done in multiple visits, a temporary filling will be placed between appointments.

Conventional root canal treatment has a success rate between 70-90%. It is very important that after a root canal is done, a definitive filling or crown is placed as soon as it is feasible. The type of restoration needed to protect your root canal will be determined by your dentist. I have been given the option to have an endodontic specialist perform my root canal and I elect to have this extraction done by Dr. Anne Etzkorn, DDS, with the understanding that she is a general dentist.

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, hereby authorize Dr. Anne Etzkorn, DDS to perform upon me root canal treatment on tooth number(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Alternatives, if any, were discussed, and include: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

I understand that my doctor may discover conditions requiring different treatment from that which was planned. I may need additional treatment to save my tooth that might result in additional cost.

Certain risks and complications include, but are not limited to the following:

-post-operative discomfort/swelling for several days

-swallowing or inhaling of instruments or fillings

-restricted mouth opening or muscle soreness for a few days

-injured oral tissues

- inaccessible canals

-irretrevable broken instruments in the canal

-fracture of the root requiring extraction

-non-healing infection or chronic irritation of the bone

-perforation of the canal walls

-loss of existing tooth structure

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Patient’s (or Legal Guardian’s) Signature Date Witness Date

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Dr. Anne Etzkorn, DDS Date

Root Canal Post-Operative Instructions

1. **Avoid eating hard foods or drinking anything too hot** for the first 24 hours. Cold, soft foods are fine to eat. Be very careful eating hard/crunchy/sticky foods until you have your final restoration complete (either crown or permanent filling)
2. **You may have some biting pressure sensitivity or gum sensitivity for the next week.**  If a pain medication was prescribed to you, take it according to its instructions. If you have pain that is not being controlled with either over the counter medications or medications that were prescribed to you, call the doctor immediately.
3. **If you were given an antibiotic prescription, take as directed until gone**. Women: all antibiotics reduce the effectiveness of birth control pills. Use alternate birth control methods for two months. Antibiotics can also increase the possibility of yeast infections and possible digestive issues. Taking a pro-biotic yogurt (like Activia) with your antibiotics may help reduce these problems.
4. **Jaw soreness is common after a root canal procedure** due to the extended length of the appointment and the injection site. Gently massage your jaw muscles 2-3 times per day and apply warm compresses (warm wet washcloth) on the sides of your face if needed.
5. **Keep the area clean** of food/debris. Rinsing with warm salt water (1/2 teaspoon salt, 8 oz warm water) twice daily for 2-3 days will help reduce swelling in the gums.
6. **Please call your dentist if you have:**

-uncontrollable pain

-high fever

-excessive warm swelling that is increasing

-reaction to medications, especially rash, itching or breathing problems

# If you have any further questions, call our office at (443)-244-9222. If you call after-hours, our voicemail will direct you to an emergency line to get in touch with Dr. Etzkorn directly.