

Endo Consent Form:

I UNDERSTAND that ROOT CANAL THERAPY includes possible inherent risks, such as, but not limited to the following:

1. In some teeth, regular root canal therapy alone may not be sufficient. If the canals are blocked, excessively curved, inaccessible, inadvertent root perforation occurs, or if there is substantial infection in the bone around the tooth, additional oral surgery, including apicoectomy or possibly extraction may be necessary.
2. If sealer materials leak out the apex of the tooth then these materials can wrap around and injure a larger nerve in the jaw causing permanent nerve injury and/or nerve pain.
3. Root canal treated teeth may become somewhat brittle and subject to cracking or fracturing. Crowning (capping) the tooth is the best prevention to avoid this problem from occurring.
4. Root canal treated teeth must be protected. During and after treatment, your tooth will have a temporary filling. (Should this come out, please call us for a replacement). It is advisable to crown the tooth as soon as possible.
5. Root canal therapy is not always successful: Many factors influence success: adequate gum tissue attachment and bone support; oral hygiene; previous and present dental care; general health; absence of trauma; pre-existing undetectable root fractures. No matter how successfully a tooth may appear to be treated, there is the possibility of failure and consequent extraction.
6. Root fracture is one of the main reasons why root canals fail. Unfortunately, hairline cracks are almost always invisible and undetectable. Causes of root fractures are trauma, inadequately protected teeth, cracking of the tooth, large fillings, improper bite, excessive wear, habitual grinding of teeth, etc. Root fracture after or prior to treatment, usually necessitates extractions.
7. There are alternatives to root canal treatment with our general dentists. These alternative (though not of choice) include: no treatment; extraction; extraction followed by bridge placement, partial denture placement, or implant placement. Furthermore, the gold standard option is always root canal therapy with a root canal specialist known as an endodontist. We recommend you get second opinion from endodontists such as Greater Washington Endo or Centerville Endo.
8. Because of the fragility and small diameter of root canal Instruments used in root canal treatment, there is the possibility of instrument separation. This may in some instances necessitate either root surgery or extraction of the tooth.
9. ONCE TREATMENT IS BEGUN, it is absolutely necessary that the root canal treatment be completed. One or more appointments may be required to complete treatment. It is a patient's responsibility to seek attention should any undue circumstance occur; and the patient must diligently follow any and all preoperative and/or postoperative instructions given to them. Furthermore, every root canal tooth should have follow-up periapical x-ray done for that tooth on an annual basis to monitor for failure of that root canal therapy. It is the patient's responsibility to seek out an annual x-ray of that tooth to monitor the root canal.
10. It is possible the tooth may become perforated with an endodontic instrument. This means a small hole is created in an area of the tooth that is not desirable and often times detrimental to the success of the root canal procedure. In this event the tooth must be repaired with special medicine called MTA. Sometimes the perforation is too large or difficult to repair and the tooth may need to be extracted.
11. If your tooth has a large cavity (almost 50% of the tooth is carious) then the tooth may not be salvageable. We may initiate root canal therapy but then find a problem that causes us to abort and recommend extraction. We will bill the patient \$300 for the procedure code known as "incomplete endo" which is designed to help us cover the costs of initiating a root canal.

12. You may have adverse reaction to the sodium hypochlorite (bleach) with swelling.

13. If our dentist is unable to complete your root canal, they will place a temporary filling, refer you to endodontist for expert level care and we will charge you \$300 for the procedure code known as "incomplete endo".

14. Typically we will use a rubber dam clamp to attach a rubber dam to the tooth being treated and this rubber dam clamp can easily shatter your tooth. If this happens then the tooth was simply too weak to withstand the process of root canal therapy. The tooth will need to be extracted and our dental office does not accept responsibility for teeth that break due to rubber dam clamps.

Financial Consent Portion:

This is just an estimate not a guarantee of payment by your insurance company. All payments are due at the time of service. In the event that your insurance pays less than the estimated portion the patient is responsible for the balance.

Legal Fees:

The dental company is entitled to claim legal fees and lost wages incurred for any situation where legal action against the dental company is initiated and ultimately unsuccessful.

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