

SOUTHEAST ENDODONTICS, PC

Walter R. Long, D.M.D.

10-E Farmfield Avenue • Charleston, SC 29407 • p / 843.766.0112 • f / 843.766.0884

What to expect after having a root canal:

- Typically you will experience moderate discomfort for two to three days, however, the tooth may still be tender to chewing for a few more days. Usually the amount of pre-treatment pain is a good indicator of the amount of discomfort you will experience following the root canal procedure. While this is the norm, it is not uncommon to be sore for up to two weeks. As long as the tenderness is gradually getting better, you should not be concerned.
- The discomfort you do experience is due to inflammation of the Periodontal Ligament which lies between the tooth and bone. Usually the Periodontal Ligament is inflamed prior to the root canal treatment, and the procedures performed today have also caused some inflammation to occur.
- Try to avoid chewing on the treated tooth until the permanent filling/crown has been placed on the tooth.
- It is important that you take the Ibuprofen as prescribed (unless you are unable to take Ibuprofen). The Ibuprofen does two things for you:
 - It serves as pain medication and thus decreases your discomfort
 - It is a strong anti-inflammatory medication which speeds the healing process
- If you have been given a prescription for pain medication, please follow the instructions carefully. Please do not drink alcoholic beverages, drive a vehicle or operate dangerous machinery while taking the pain medication. We prescribe the pain medication as a backup incase the ibuprofen is not sufficient to relieve the discomfort.
- A report of your treatment along with a final x-ray will be forwarded to your referring dentist.
- It is important that the tooth is permanently restored, otherwise the long-term success of the root canal treatment will be compromised. Therefore, contact your dentist as soon as possible to schedule your next appointment.
- Recent studies have shown that endodontic treatment is highly successful (> 90%), and rarely are additional procedures required to save a tooth. We will recall you in six months to a year following the completion of your treatment. An x-ray will be taken and compared to the x-rays that were taken at the time of the root canal treatment.
- Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve you. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to call us at **843-766-0112**. Dr. Long's **emergency after hours phone number is 843-822-6467**. If no one answers, please leave a voicemail message and Dr. Long will call you right back.