

POST OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

Following your root canal therapy your tooth might be sore for several days or weeks, especially to chewing pressure. Our recommendation for alleviation of the discomfort is to follow this over-the-counter analgesic regimen **as long as you have no sensitivity to any of these medications:**

- 1) **THREE - FOUR** ibuprofen (e.g. **Advil**) tablets (200mg per tablet) every 6-8 hours as needed
(maximum dosage for healthy adult = 3200mg per day)

OR

- ONE** naproxen (e.g. **Aleve**) tablet (200mg per tablet) every 8-12 hours as needed
(maximum dosage for healthy adult = 600mg per day)

AND (Advil or Aleve can be taken with Tylenol)

- 2) **TWO** extra strength acetaminophen (e.g. **Tylenol**) tablets (500mg per tablet) every 8 hours as needed
(maximum dosage for healthy adult = 3000mg per day)

If an additional pain killer has been prescribed for you (e.g. hydrocodone, Lortab, Vicodin), you should continue to take the ibuprofen with it as the two medications together work even better. However, if you are taking Tylenol, please **discontinue** taking the Tylenol while you are taking this prescribed medication. Generally, the prescribed pain killer is a narcotic and will make you very tired. Therefore, driving should be discontinued as long as you are on the prescribed medication.

Post-operative **swelling** is more common with teeth that were severely infected prior to the root canal treatment. This swelling would appear in the cheek and gum area adjacent to the tooth. If you notice this swelling, please call our office immediately. In these instances an antibiotic might also be prescribed for you. It will require approximately 24 hours to begin acting. Please continue to take this antibiotic until the prescription is completely finished. If you are having severe pain or swelling that is not responding to the medication please call our office at **(702) 436-4300** or the afterhours answering service at **(702) 388-8023**.

THE TEMPORAY FILLING IN THE TOP OF THE TOOTH MUST BE REPLACED BY YOUR GENERAL DENTIST as soon as conveniently possible. Please be careful chewing on the tooth until the final restoration has been completed because in its present state the tooth is weaker and more prone to fracture.

In order to evaluate healing in certain cases, an additional follow-up appointment may be necessary. Please arrange an appointment accordingly if indicated by the doctor.



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