

**APICOECTOMY**

Your local anesthesia will wear off in four to eight hours. You may feel some tenderness in the area for a few days as everything heals and some mild soreness in your jaw from keeping your mouth open for an extended period during the procedure. These temporary symptoms usually respond well to over-the-counter medication but your doctor may prescribe stronger, narcotic medication as well. It’s important to carefully follow the instructions for medications and that narcotics can make you drowsy so you should exercise caution when taking them and driving a car or operating dangerous machinery.

* Peridex Rinse – Do not start using the prescribed mouth rinse until tomorrow. – Rinse 2x a day for 10 days.
* Apply ice to the surgical site for fifteen minutes on, fifteen minutes off for four to six hours after surgery. Applications after this period will have only slight benefit.
* Do not use any medication that your physician, pharmacist, etc. has advised you not to take. Please follow manufacturer’s instructions and discontinue alcohol use with medications.
* Take all routine medications as directed by your physician. Immediately **stop using any drug** that causes stomach upset or allergic reactions (including hives, rash, facial swelling, asthma, or wheezing). Seek immediate medical attention if any complications arise.
* Follow your normal home care (tooth brushing/flossing) routine except avoid the surgical site for a few days.
* Eat meals at regular intervals but avoid food that may traumatize the incision site. Avoid spicy and hot (temperature) foods. Good foods are eggs, soup, pancakes, milkshakes or yogurt.
* We know that you are anxious to see the results of your surgery, but please do not forcibly pull your lips or cheeks away to inspect the surgical site. This action could possibly tear your sutures.
* Sleep with two pillows to slightly elevate your head during the first night.
* Call us immediately if you experience more than slight swelling or discomfort. In case the doctor needs to call in a prescription, have your pharmacy number handy.

Though you may experience a slightly different sensation from your treated tooth than your other teeth for some time, you should contact your endodontist immediately if you experience any of the following symptoms:

* Severe pain or pressure lasting more than a few days
* Visible swelling inside or outside your mouth
* An allergic reaction to medication (rash, hives or itching)
* Your bite feels uneven
* The temporary crown or filling, if one was put in place, comes out (losing a thin layer is normal)
* Symptoms you experienced prior to treatment return

After your procedure wait until the numbness in your mouth wears off before eating so you won’t bite your cheek or tongue. Don’t chew or bite down on the treated tooth until it is fully restored by a dentist to avoid damaging it. Remember to brush and floss daily as you normally would to keep the area clean and avoid infection. Please return to our office for evaluation of healing on the date indicated on your appointment card. In most cases, this visit is very brief.