

INFORMED CONSENT

Chart # _____

Brief description of endodontic therapy (root canal treatment):

The soft tissue located inside the tooth, called dental pulp, is a very fragile tissue with a delicate blood supply. All the injuries received by the tooth over its lifetime (such as dental decay, fillings, crown placement, fractures and heavy wearing) often result in the formation of fibrous or calcified scars within the pulp. This decreases the blood supply and can lead to dental pain due to pulp inflammation and death. The space where this tissue once lived eventually becomes infected by mouth bacteria and this infection can spread to the bone surrounding the tooth (abscess). In order to prevent this, endodontic treatment (root canal therapy) removes damaged or infected pulp tissue from this center space or canal in each root of the tooth, and replaces it with an inert sealant material.

As with other forms of medical and dental treatment, there can never be any guarantee that endodontic therapy will be successful. National data for success rate for root canal therapy is nationally reported to be between 80% and 90%, unless otherwise stated in your specific case. Successful treatment allows you to keep a tooth for an extended period of time, in some cases as long as 20 years or more, but in some cases significantly less time. This depends on the condition of the tooth when it was treated, the ability of the Doctor to accomplish the required procedure, and the effectiveness of the permanent restoration that is placed shortly after the root canal procedure is completed. The Doctor will make every effort to treat you according to the most modern and scientific methods. Every instrument that enters your mouth is heat sterilized. If initial therapy is unsuccessful, in some cases, retreatment or a minor out-patient surgical procedure of the root tip can save teeth that would otherwise be lost (such additional procedures can involve a referral with a separate fee).

Alternatives to this treatment:

1. While it would be possible to live with a dying dental pulp or chronic dental infection, this is unhealthy. If a person's resistance drops, the infection from around the roots could travel to other parts of the body, causing potentially serious problems.
2. Extraction of the tooth can eliminate the problem of infection, but leaves a toothless space which should be replaced with a porcelain bridge, plastic denture or implant in most cases.

Risk of treatment:

The possible risks of endodontic therapy include, but may not be limited to, the following: cyst formation, chronic infection, separation of the delicate instruments within the root canal, fracture of an existing porcelain restoration, overfilling of sealant beyond the tooth root end, chronic biting sensitivity, and root fracture.

This treatment does not change the chances for future gum disease or new decay in or around the treated tooth.

There is always a small risk of nerve trauma whenever local anesthetic is administered. This can result in persistent numbness, separation of the needle into mucosa, or alteration of taste sensation. In rare instances, serious allergic reactions may result from the administration of local anesthetic.

I hereby certify that I have read the above information and that the biographical and medical information I have given East End Endodontics office is accurate to the best of my recollection. I will decide with all my doctors whether or not to proceed with treatment. I also understand that my signature below does not obligate me to any treatment and simply confirms that I have read and understand the anticipated root canal procedure including the relative success rates and possible complications.

Signature _____ Date _____