



## Post Operative Instructions following Incomplete Root Canal Therapy

Oh no! For one reason or another your root canal was unable to be completed, usually for one of two reasons. Either the infection was too big and didn't allow Dr. Alonso to finish treatment or there was a fracture in your tooth. Hopefully you had a pleasant experience; that truly is our goal.

### **Incomplete Treatment Due to Infection**

1. **DO NOT** eat or drink anything for the next 30 minutes. **DO NOT** try to feel around your tooth with your tongue.
2. **IMMEDIATELY** start the antibiotics that were prescribed to you. The sooner you get the antibiotics in your system the sooner they can begin to work against the infection. Please be patient as it takes a full 24 hours for the antibiotics to take effect. **Take the FULL COURSE of antibiotics!**
3. **DO NOT** use the tooth to bite down on anything hard (peanuts, pretzels, ice, etc.), the tooth is prone to fracture if you bite down on anything too hard or crunchy.
4. It is normal for the temporary filling to "divot" in with use. It is very rare for it to fall out entirely. If the temporary falls out you should contact us as soon as possible. If it happens when our office is close, we recommend you purchase some temporary filling material from any pharmacy and place a dab in the tooth until you have an opportunity to see us at our office.
5. Some minor discomfort in the area is normal. **It is normal for the tooth to be uncomfortable for 2-3 days after today's treatment.** Sometimes, depending on the circumstances, the tooth and surrounding tissues may remain sore for **a few weeks.** The three most common reasons for pain are:
  - ❖ Sore jaw joint from having your mouth open for a prolonged time.
  - ❖ Sore muscle from the injection site.
  - ❖ Sore gum from the rubber dam placement.
6. Any pain or discomfort can be handled with over the counter medication. We recommend:
  - ❖ 2-3 Advil or Motrin every 6 hours for the next 2 days.

**-OR-**

  - ❖ 2 Extra Strength Tylenol or generic equivalents every 6 hours for the next 2 days.

99% of the time this is enough to handle the discomfort. If it is not, please contact our office and we will ensure you are comfortable.
7. You may floss and brush your tooth as normal, unless told otherwise by Dr. Alonso.
8. It is very important that you keep your appointment with our office to finish the root canal. **PLEASE** do not cancel or reschedule your appointment even if you are feeling better. Remember the antibiotics will help with the infection which will in turn alleviate the pain and the pressure but the treatment still needs to be completed.



If you experience moderate to severe pain, swelling, bruising, throbbing and general discomfort, please contact our office. You may be prescribed different or additional antibiotics, stronger pain medication, a steroid and/or you may be asked to come to our office.

If you experience any of these symptoms outside of regular office hours Dr. Alonso can always be reached through the regular office number. Once you leave a message he receives a notification on his cell phone and will return your call within the hour.

### **Incomplete Treatment Due to Fracture**

1. **DO NOT** eat or drink anything for the next 30 minutes. **DO NOT** try to feel around your tooth with your tongue.
2. **DO NOT** use the tooth to bite down on anything hard (peanuts, pretzels, ice, etc.).
3. If our office was unable to refer you to an ORAL SURGEON for whatever reason, please contact your general dentist **ASAP** to get a referral and schedule an appointment with their office.
4. If our office was able to get you an appointment with the ORAL SURGEON please do not cancel, reschedule or no show their office. The sooner you get the tooth extracted the better. If you leave the issue unresolved you are running a risk of worsening the fracture or causing an infection.
5. After your extraction follow up with your general dentist.