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Post-op Root Canal Instructions

Depending on the condition of your tooth prior to the [root canal treatment](#), the healing phase may be rapid or lingering. Please be patient with this process as it can take up to several days to a few weeks for all symptoms to resolve. The healing process is normal due to the body's recovering response at the tooth root ends and the injection sites. The amount of discomfort depends on the type of infection and condition of the pulp you had when you presented for treatment.

Most discomfort may be alleviated by taking 600 mg Ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin) every 4-6 hours. If you cannot tolerate taking Ibuprofen or if your medical history contraindicates this medication, you may take 1000 mg of Acetaminophen (Tylenol) every 4-6 hours. You can also take both Ibuprofen and Acetaminophen at the same time for extra relief since the medications function at different pain pathways in the body. Should you experience discomfort that cannot be controlled with the above listed medications, please contact our office any time.

Antibiotics are not required for all [root canal treatment](#). Your dentist will determine if antibiotics are necessary to assist in the healing process. If you notice swelling after the treatment, please contact us any time.

The root canal system in your tooth has been permanently sealed; however, the biting surface may be sealed with a temporary restoration. This temporary is only designed to last less than four weeks. Within that time frame you must get a protective permanent restoration (filling or crown) on the tooth. During the interim period, you should avoid chewing any food on the affected tooth. Many teeth undergoing [root canal treatment](#) are already weakened from cracks, decay or fillings and they may break if not careful. You may continue your regular dental hygiene regimen.