

## Informed Consent for Endodontic Treatment

Root canal treatment, also known as "endodontic treatment", is a procedure that attempts to retain a tooth (or teeth) which otherwise might require extraction. It is one of the most common dental procedures performed and also one of the most successful with a clinical success rate of over 90%! However, it is still a biological procedure, and success cannot be guaranteed. If you have any questions about the procedure, please feel free to ask. Dr. Pockat is always happy to answer any questions that you might have. Most complications are quite rare.

***To avoid misunderstandings the following is given for your information.  
Please feel free to discuss treatment and fees with us at any time.***

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have been informed that my tooth (teeth) requires an endodontic procedure and that I fully understand the following:

1. Failure to follow this recommendation may result in: loss of tooth, bone destruction due to an abscess, pain, or possible systemic (affecting the whole body) infection.
2. A certain percentage (5 to 10 percent) of root canals fail and may require re-treatment, surgery, or extraction.
3. Non-surgical endodontic treatment may require more than one appointment. Failure to keep your appointment prolongs treatment, affects your comfort, and reduces the success rate.
4. Complication of root canal therapy and local anesthesia may include: swelling, pain, trismus (restricted jaw opening), infection, bleeding, sinus involvement and numbness or tingling of the lip, gum or tongue, which rarely occurs and even more rarely permanent.
5. During treatment, complications may be discovered which may make treatment impossible, or which may require dental surgery. These complications may include: instruments broken within the root canals, perforations of the crown or root of the tooth, loss of tooth structure in gaining access to canals, blocked canals due to fillings, natural calcification, or splits / fractures of the root.
6. About 10% of root canal treated teeth are lost due to periodontal disease (gum disease / pyorrhea), splits or fractures of the roots.
7. When making an access (opening) through an existing crown or placing a rubber dam clamp, possible damage can occur and a new crown may be necessary after endodontic therapy.
8. Successful completion of the root canal procedure does not prevent future decay or fracture.
9. To protect your tooth from decaying or fracturing, you must return to your dentist for a permanent filling or crown within a maximum of 6 weeks after the completion of root canal therapy, unless you continue to have symptoms. If this occurs, please contact our office for further evaluation. In some cases a permanent filling will be done by the endodontist. The fee for the final restoration is a separate fee either charged by your dentist or by the endodontist, and is not included in the root canal fee. Failure to follow up with the final restoration in a timely manner may result in failure of the root canal treatment. An additional fee will be charged if re-treatment or apical surgery is required due to the lack of a final restoration.
10. There are risks involved in administration of anesthetics, analgesics (pain medication) and antibiotics. I will inform the doctor of all medications that I take and of any previous side effects or allergies.

***My signature below indicates that I have read and understand what is written above.***

Patient / Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Witness Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_