



Following root canal therapy or root canal retreatment

It is possible to experience any of the following symptoms after a root canal appointment:

- sensitivity to hot and/or cold
- sensitivity to pressure
- possible swelling

If you experience swelling, you can take acetaminophen or ibuprofen; these are recommended for minor discomfort or pain.

If you experience severe swelling or severe pain, take the prescribed antibiotic and/or pain medication.

If your tooth throbs, keep your head elevated, even when lying down. Refrain from any strenuous activity.

Discomfort usually subsides in a couple of days but may last as long as a few weeks. Improvement will be gradual. Rinsing the mouth with warm salt water (one teaspoon salt to 8 oz. of warm water), three to four times a day may also be helpful in relieving discomfort.

If you initially feel better, but then get significantly worse two or three days after treatment, you may be experiencing what is known as a “flare-up”. This is not a common occurrence but if it happens, please contact our office.

One common occurrence with a newly root-canaled tooth is for the tooth to feel high when you bite your teeth together. If this occurs it will cause your tooth to stay sensitive for a longer period of time.

Please call us if your bite feels high as this problem is easily rectified with a simple bite adjustment.

During root canal treatment, the nerve, blood and nutrient supply to the tooth is removed. This will cause the tooth to become brittle and prone to fracturing which could result in the need to extract the tooth. **A full coverage crown is recommended to prevent this from happening. The sooner a crown is placed, the better.**

Proper brushing, flossing, and regular 6-month (minimal) cleanings are essential to the long-term stability of your teeth.

Should you have any other questions or concerns, please call 416.922.9040 (during office hours) or 416.993.1506 (after-hours). You can also reach us by email smile@drlbrown.com