

SMILES BY DESIGN
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CONSENT FOR ROOT CANAL TREATMENT

TOOTH# _____

1. **Root canal therapy is about 95 percent successful.** Many factors influence the treatment outcome: the patient's general health, bone support around the tooth, strength of the tooth including possible fracture lines, shape and condition of the root and nerve canal(s), etc.
2. **Teeth treated with root canals must be protected during treatment.** Between appointments, your tooth will have a temporary filling. If this should come out, please call the office and arrange to have it replaced. Care should be taken to avoid hard, sticky, and crunchy foods.
3. **The tooth may normally be sensitive following appointments and even remain tender for a time after treatment is completed.** If sensitivity persists, and does not seem to be getting better, even several weeks after the root canal is finished, please let the doctor know.
4. **Fractures are one of the main reasons why root canals fail.** Unfortunately, some cracks that extend from the crown into the root are invisible and hard to detect. They can occur on uncrowned teeth from traumatic injury, biting on hard objects, habitual clenching or grinding, or even just normal wear and tear. Whether the fracture occurs before or after the root canal, it may require an extraction of the tooth.
5. **Since teeth with root canals are more brittle than other teeth, the dentist will recommend a crown with a post and/or bonding to prevent future damage.**
6. **Teeth treated with root canals can still decay, but since the nerve is gone, there will be no pain.**
As with other teeth, the proper care of these teeth consists of good home care, a sensible diet, and periodic dental check-ups.
7. **Teeth treated with a root canal can still have pain and/or infections, and they may require additional treatment or retreatment in the future.**
8. **With some teeth, conventional root canal therapy alone may not be sufficient.** For example, if the canal(s) are severely bent or calcified, if there is substantial or longstanding infection in the bone around the roots, or if a metal file becomes separated within a canal, the tooth may remain sensitive and a surgery procedure may be necessary to resolve the problem.
9. **Root canal treatment can result in the need for additional treatment and/or loss of the tooth in some cases.** Instrument fractures, root fractures, tooth perforations, infections and bone loss are some, but not the only complications inherent to the procedures. These complications may result in the need for additional treatment, expenses, or loss of tooth.
10. **There are alternatives to root canal therapy.** They include no treatment at all, extraction with nothing to fill the space, and an extraction followed by a bridge, partial denture, or implant to fill the space.

The nature of root canal therapy has been explained to me and I have had a chance to have my questions answered. I understand that dentistry is not an exact science and **success with root canals cannot be guaranteed.** In light of the above information, I authorize the doctor to proceed with treatment.

Patient Signature: _____ **Printed Name:** _____ **Date:** _____

Signature of Guardian (if patient is a minor): _____ **Date:** _____

Doctor Signature: _____ **Date:** _____