



Consent for Root Canal Therapy Tooth # _____

1. **Root canal therapy is about 95 % 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 material. If this should come out, please call the office and arrange to have it replaced.
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 completed, please let the doctor know.
4. **Fractures are one of the main reasons why a root canal fails.** Unfortunately, some cracks that extend from the crown to 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 extraction of the tooth.
5. **Since teeth with root canals are more brittle than other teeth,** the dentist may recommend a crown to prevent future damage. This is especially important with molar and pre-molar teeth.
6. **Teeth treated with root canals can 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, sensible diet, and periodic dental checkups.
7. **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.
8. **There is a risk of instrument separation in the canal.** Because of the fragility of the instruments and small diameter of the canals, there exists the possibility of instrument separation (breakage) which may or may not be detected at the time of treatment.
9. **Medications.** Analgesics and/or antibiotics may need to be prescribed depending on symptoms and treatment findings. Prescription drugs must be taken according to instructions. *Women on oral contraceptives must be aware that antibiotics can cause these contraceptives to be ineffective* and other methods of contraception may need to be utilized during the treatment period.
10. **There are alternatives to root canal therapy.** They include no treatment at all, extraction with nothing to fill the space, and extraction followed by bridge, partial denture or implant to fill the space.

The nature of root canal therapy has been explained to me and the possible risks and complications. I have read the above information and had a chance to have my questions answered. I have been given the option of seeking treatment from a specialist. I understand that success with root canals cannot be guaranteed. In light of the above information, I authorize Dr. Franklin D. Allen to proceed with recommended treatment.

Patient's Name (please print): _____

Patient's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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

Witness Signature: _____ Date: _____