



# Granite State Endodontics

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## INFORMED CONSENT FOR CONVENTIONAL ROOT CANAL CARE

Root canal treatment is an attempt to save a tooth that would otherwise need to be removed. This treatment is usually 90-95% successful. However, it is a biological procedure, depending on many factors outside the control of the dentist and the patient and therefore cannot be guaranteed. Occasionally there are unintended side effects of treatment. Some of the major ones are: broken instrument, root fracture, drilling through the side of the root while trying to find the canal, numbness in the lips or gums, difficulty opening mouth following treatment, difficulty obtaining complete anesthesia, post-operative discomfort, swelling, damage to a crown (cap) on the tooth necessitating crown replacement, and side effects of medication. The frequency of these side effects are very low, but some can result in the loss of the tooth. Others are inconvenient, but are repairable without the need of additional treatment. Persistent problems following treatment may require root canal re-treatment, surgical intervention or extraction.

Certain procedures are routine in conventional root canal therapy including:

X-Rays; usually an average of three to four are needed per tooth, but more may be required. The radiation received is 100 to 1000 times less than the levels needed to sustain tissue injury. However, if even this low level of exposure is unacceptable to you, you may wish to forgo endodontic treatment in favor of extraction.

Anesthesia: is normally required at all treatment visits. During the injection some solution may enter a blood vessel, producing an increase in heart rate and a flushed feeling. Both are temporary and pass within minutes. Also, the tip of the needle may contact and damage a nerve leading to temporary or permanent numbness. (This is extraordinarily rare.)

**A temporary restoration will be placed in the root canal tooth. This will need to be replaced with a permanent restoration and/or crown by your general dentist within 2 months. Failure to permanently restore the root canal tooth could result in need for root canal retreatment, fracture and/or extraction. To avoid fracture, that could lead to extraction, do not chew on posterior root canal teeth (molars and bicuspids) that have not been previously crowned until your dentist completely covers the biting surface with a permanent restoration or a crown.**

Antibiotics: Often antibiotics (penicillin, clindamycin, etc.) are required as part of treatment. Antibiotics may interfere with birth control pills, resulting in an unplanned pregnancy. If you are taking birth control pills, you should consider alternative birth control measures for the remainder of that month's cycle in which the antibiotics were taken.

This information is not meant to alarm you. The vast majority of endodontic treatment proceeds very comfortably and successfully. Please feel free at any time to ask questions you may have.

I have carefully read the above statements, my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I give my consent to the procedure.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_