

Consent for Root Canal Treatment

Tooth Number Requiring Treatment: _____

In most cases, root canal treatment is very successful. We take great efforts to ensure your treatment is safe. However, there are known risks to root canal treatment, and like any dental care, it cannot be guaranteed to be 100% successful or to last for your entire lifetime.

The reasons that nerves die in teeth vary. They include:

1. Trauma from accidents or blows to the teeth (immediately or years later).
2. Trauma related to dental decay, the removal of dental decay by your dentist, and from treatment needed to restore broken or mutilated teeth (i.e. crown treatment).
3. Gum disease.
4. Tooth fracture (complete or incomplete).
5. Root fracture (if this is the case the tooth will require extraction).
6. Unknown reasons.

The risks during and after treatment include:

1. Pain, swelling, bruising, and infection.
2. Separated cleaning instruments that must be left in the tooth or perforation of tooth or root structure by the cleaning instruments.
3. Irritation of tissues by cleaning/disinfectant materials.
4. Inability to fully clean and disinfect the nerve canal(s).
5. Inability to navigate the canal(s) completely due to tooth anatomy or obstruction.
6. Hidden canal structures not visible to the eye or x-rays.
7. Tooth or root fracture (immediate or in the future) because of weakened tooth and root structure; possibly leading to loss of the tooth.
8. Inability to completely fill the tooth to complete treatment.
9. Any of the above can require re-treatment of the root canal, surgery on the root tip(s) or extraction because of continued problems and symptoms with the tooth. Additional treatment related fees similar to the original treatment fee are involved with re-treatments and root surgery.
10. Swallowing or aspirating cleaning instruments or cleaning solution.
11. Possible damage to adjacent teeth.
12. Unsuccessful treatment or continued symptoms requiring extraction of the tooth.

Benefits of treatment:

1. The natural tooth is saved.

Alternatives to root canal treatment include:

1. Replace the tooth with a dental implant.
2. Extraction with no tooth replacement.
3. No treatment.

Risks of no treatment include:

1. Infection, including life threatening.
2. Pain.
3. Swelling, including life threatening.

I have read the above and have had the opportunity to ask questions and agree to have Dr. Allred proceed with treatment.

Signed _____ Date _____
(Patient/Guardian/Parent)

Witness _____ Date _____