

Ian J. Langer, D.M.D. LLC

N.J. Specialty Permit #3336

Practice Limited to Endodontics

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After Completion Of Root Canal Filling

The infection that was present in your tooth has been eliminated. The canal, or canals have been sealed to prevent reinfection. Nature must now have time to repair the damage that the original infection produced.

The tooth may be slightly tender for several days. Sometimes the gums will become slightly swollen or puffy as a reaction to the amount of work performed at this last appointment. This does not indicate the infection has returned. To help reduce the tenderness, rinse your mouth with warm salt water. Repeat several times each day, the more rinsing the better, until all tenderness is gone. You may also take aspirin or other medication as instructed.

DO NOT CHEW ON THE TOOTH UNTIL ALL OF THE TENDERNESS IS GONE

Although the root or roots are permanently sealed, the outer surface is sealed with a “temporary” cement filling. You must return to your dentist as soon as possible for a permanent restoration. Since healing is expected to occur, there is no need to “wait and see” prior to restoring the tooth. Most teeth which have been treated with root canal therapy have been seriously weakened by decay and multiple fillings. With few exceptions, these teeth require crowns. Delaying the final restoration will increase the risk of tooth and root fracture or reinfection, which will then require surgery, or an extraction of the tooth.

As a part of therapy, follow-up x-rays will be taken 6 months to check the progress of healing. If healing is not occurring or if reinfection should occur, additional procedures may become necessary. If there are any questions or problems, please do not hesitate to call.