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AFTER ROOT CANAL THERAPY

Following root canal therapy, it is not uncommon to experience some discomfort. On rare occasions, this discomfort may be significant. The process of root canal therapy includes removal of the pulp (nerve) tissue to the root tip(s). This will cause inflammation in the bone tissue surrounding the root tip. The human immune system's inflammatory response is at its peak for about 48 hours. This inflammation can be uncomfortable, but should respond to anti-inflammatory medications. After the first 48 hours, your tooth should begin to feel significantly better.

Occasionally, antibiotics may be necessary. If you are given prescription medications, please fill and take them. **Your prescriptions will be much more effective if taken before the onset of discomfort.** Your tooth will feel much better if you follow these instructions:

1. Try not to use the tooth for chewing for 72 hours, as this will cause further inflammation in the surrounding bone tissue.
2. You may have slight swelling in the tissues surrounding the tooth due to the rubber dam used for isolating your tooth. Warm salt water rinses will help. 1/2 teaspoon in a 8 oz. glass of warm water rinsed every 3 hours. Also, gently brushing and flossing of the area will speed recovery.
3. Take 600 mg. ibuprofen (Motrin or Advil) every 6 hours for the next couple of days.

When should I call the emergency number?

1. After normal office hours. Monday to Friday 8 AM - 5 PM. AND
2. If swelling or moderate to severe pain occurs that was not present prior to root canal therapy. AND
3. If your prescribed medication(s) are not decreasing discomfort.