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Post-operative Instructions Following Root Canal Therapy

You just received a root canal treatment. A temporary filling has been placed to protect your tooth until a final restoration is ready. The following symptoms are expected and are absolutely normal:

- Numbness in the area where work was done for a few hours following treatment
- Variable degree of discomfort following the root canal therapy for a few days
- Slight swelling and pressure on the tooth and the surrounding area
- Possible slight bleeding from the gum immediately adjacent to the tooth
- Biting pain for a few days

You should do the following immediately after your root canal treatment completion:

1. Avoid biting on the treated tooth.
2. Call your referring dentist to schedule an appointment for your final restoration. It is very essential that you replace the temporary filling as soon as possible to avoid fracturing or damaging the tooth. Final restoration in most cases is in the form of a crown. **Failure to place a permanent restoration shortly after the root canal procedure could lead to loss of the tooth.**
3. Take pain medicine as needed to alleviate any discomfort you may have.
4. If an antibiotic is prescribed, you should continue taking it until gone, even if your symptoms are gone.
5. Avoid eating sticky or hard food to prevent damage or loss of the temporary filling.
6. Continue your regular oral hygiene at home, including brushing and flossing.
7. The use of a mouth wash or warm salt water rinse is helpful, if desired.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call us at (630) 305-0312.