

CENTER FOR ENDODONTIC CARE

SURGICAL ROOT CANAL THERAPY INFORMATION

The following is an explanation of what typically happens at surgery appointments. Please note that each patient is different. Treatment and healing/recovery may vary.

SURGERY CONSULTATION: This appointment is required before any surgery can be scheduled. During this visit, an examination of your x-ray, along with testing of the tooth in question is completed. If you are traveling from out of town, this visit may be replaced with a phone consultation once we have received x-rays of your tooth from your family dentist.

- ◆ **Education:** We want you to be well informed and educated about your upcoming surgical procedure, so we provide an in-depth explanation about what to expect before, during, and after the procedure. Our step-by-step explanation of the surgical procedure includes illustrations from our surgical pamphlet. Before the end of this visit, we will give you an information packet, which reviews the consultation discussion, and you will have opportunity to ask questions.
- ◆ **Medical/Health Concerns:** All medical and/or health concerns are addressed at this time. If you take aspirin or Coumadin daily, you should inform the doctor who will treat you. We will give you prescriptions to fill prior to your surgery appointment.
- ◆ **Appointment Length:** Approximately 30 minutes.
- ◆ **Checking Out:** After your consultation, you may schedule a surgery appointment and make financial arrangements with our front desk staff.

PREPARING FOR THE SURGERY:

- ◆ **Driving:** We highly recommend that you have someone drive you to and from your appointment.
- ◆ **Medications:** Aspirin, Ibuprofen, Coumadin, and other blood thinners make it more difficult to control bleeding. If you take aspirin daily, please stop taking it five days prior to your appointment. Do not take any aspirin or Ibuprofen products (i.e., Advil, Motrin, etc.) before the procedure. If you are taking Coumadin or other blood thinners, please let us know before surgery.
- ◆ **Prescriptions:** You may have been given up to three prescriptions which you will need to take:
 - **Antibiotic:** Antibiotics are not always necessary. However, if they are needed in your case, take two pills the morning of surgery, then one pill every six hours until gone. If you are already taking antibiotics, just continue taking this medicine according to the directions on your prescription container. If you run out of antibiotics before the surgery, you may need a refill to start the morning of surgery.
 - **Pain Medication:** Take one pill, one hour before surgery.
 - **Mouth Rinse:** Rinse with Peridex before your surgery appointment.
- ◆ **Eating:** It is important to maintain proper nutrition, so eat a good meal before your surgery appointment. This does NOT apply if you receiving I.V. sedation during surgery. Please refer to "I.V. Sedation Instructions."

THE SURGICAL PROCEDURE: You will schedule a one to two hour appointment for the day of your surgery. The procedure typically takes 30 to 45 minutes. The remaining time is used to allow the surgical site to numb (15-30 minutes), and to review the post-surgical instructions. The following is an overview of the surgical steps:

- ◆ Local anesthetic is given

- ◆ The surgical site is incised; the gums are reflected to see the underlying bone
- ◆ Inflamed or infected tissue around the root end is removed
- ◆ The root end is removed
- ◆ A small filling is placed to seal the end of the root canal
- ◆ The root structure is examined for cracks or splits
- ◆ Gum tissue is placed back to position and sutures are placed
- ◆ Final x-ray is taken (This x-ray will be sent to your family dentist with a letter detailing your treatment)
- ◆ An ice pack is applied to surgical area

After your surgery, we advise that your designated driver escort you home. At home, try to get as much rest as possible for the remainder of the day and the following day. Please read the “Post Surgical Instructions” completely for specific information about proper care following your surgery.

SYMPTOMS TO EXPECT AFTER THE SURGERY:

- ◆ Inflammation of the tissue around the surgery site
- ◆ Slight bleeding for the first 24 hours
- ◆ Some swelling for the first 24-48 hours
- ◆ Some bruising and discoloration of the tissue near the surgery site
- ◆ Some bruising of the cheek around the surgery site
- ◆ Anesthetic numbness 4-10 hours after the procedure
- ◆ Paresthesia is a risk when performing surgery; however it is very rare. Paresthesia means numbness, which can occur in the jaw, tongue or lip area following root canal surgery. Please discuss this with your doctor if you have any questions.

Note that you can reduce symptoms significantly by icing the surgical area for several hours after treatment.

POST SURGICAL APPOINTMENT: Typically scheduled one week after surgery, any remaining sutures are removed and an examination of the tissues at the surgery site is completed.

RECALL APPOINTMENT: 6 months to 1 year after the completion of your endodontic treatment, our office will send you a postcard reminding you to schedule an appointment for a check up. There is no charge for this appointment. It is typically a 10-minute visit for us to take a new x-ray of the surgical site and re-confirm that the site is healing appropriately. We send a copy of this x-ray to your family dentist.

Thank you for choosing the Center for Endodontic Care
Please do not hesitate to call us with any questions or concerns.