

Advanced Endodontic Care  
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### **Information About Root Canal Treatment...**

This form has been prepared in order to answer some of the most frequently asked questions about endodontic treatment.

**WHY DO I NEED ROOT CANAL TREATMENT?** When the nerve of the tooth becomes irritated, inflamed, or there may be swelling. All of the symptoms can be very annoying to most patients.

**HOW DOES ROOT CANAL TREATMENT WORK?** Endodontic treatment removes the irritated or infected area from the tooth, thus eliminating the source of pain or problem.

**WHAT IS DONE TO THE TOOTH?** After the area is anesthetized, a small opening is made in the tooth. Through the small opening, the diseased part of the tooth is removed and the tooth is disinfected. In the final step, the roots are sealed up to prevent re-infection. Sometimes it's necessary to take antibiotics or analgesics to speed healing and recovery.

**ARE X-RAYS TAKEN?** Yes, radiographs (x-rays) are necessary to allow Drs. Bascom, Leonard or Wuerch to determine if there is infection in the bone. They are also needed to accurately measure the tooth in preparing it for the root canal filling.

**WHEN WILL THE TREATMENT BE COMPLETE?** One or two visits are required, depending on case difficulty and time factors. Following root canal treatment, you must return to your general dentist for a permanent restoration within 30 days.

**THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT! INITIALS\_\_\_\_\_**

**WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON RISKS INVOLVED?** Soreness and/or tenderness to biting sometimes occur in the first few days after treatment. Treatment complications may include perforation, instrument separation, or adverse drug reaction. As endodontic specialists, Drs. Bascom, Leonard and Wuerch are knowledgeable about prevention and treatment of complications that might occur.

**WHAT ARE THE ALTERNATIVES TO ROOT CANAL TREATMENT?** If the nerve is irreversibly diseased and root canal treatment is not or can not be done, extraction is the next alternative.

**HOW SOON WILL I FEEL BETTER?** In most cases, patients feel better the first day after treatment. Occasionally patients have delayed healing and require medications to help their body fight inflammation or infection.

**HOW SUCCESSFUL IS ROOT CANAL TREATMENT?** Over 90% success rates have been reported in the endodontic research literature. Dr. Bascom, Dr. Leonard or Dr. Wuerch will let you know if the chance of success is poor, and in those cases, root canal therapy is not attempted.

### **Consent Statement.....**

I have read and understand this information sheet on root canal treatment and feel I would benefit from this service. (Ask questions if there is anything that you would like to know at this time).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Signature