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POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR ENDODONTIC PATIENTS

You have received Endodontic treatment in an effort to retain your tooth and avoid extractions. Under most circumstances, about 90% of our treatments are successful in achieving this goal. However, there are some possible complications of which you should be aware.

- 1. Even though the nerve has been removed from the tooth, the act of performing treatment causes the ligament which surrounds the tooth to become inflamed. Most patients report a pain level of “3” on a scale of 1 to 10. This is normal and does not necessarily mean that something is wrong.**
- 2. Please take 3 (three) 200mg Ibuprofen/Advil tablets four times a day (not to exceed 2400mg/day) for three days to control this discomfort. If you are unable to take Advil, take 2 (two) Extra Strength Tylenol 500mg tablets four times per day (not to exceed 4000mg/day) for three days.**
- 3. If this does not control your discomfort, fill the prescription (if given) as directed. If you did not receive a pain control prescription and are experiencing pain that is not comforted with Advil/Tylenol, please call our office immediately. You may supplement the prescription with the above mentioned Advil/Tylenol advice for added pain control. Be aware that your pain medication may already contain acetaminophen (Tylenol) so do not exceed the above mentioned recommendation. If you have a liver condition, please let the office/pharmacist know.**
- 4. It is normal for a tooth that has had endodontic treatment to be sore to biting pressure, so please avoid chewing on the tooth for at least one week.**
- 5. Approximately 2% of root canal treatments will “flare up.” This means that the symptoms become worse instead of better. If your pain level is increasing rather than decreasing and/or swelling develops, please contact our office. If you are calling after-hours, the doctor’s cell phone is stated on the office’s answering message.**
- 6. You will need to schedule your final restoration within 2-4 weeks of completion of root canal treatment. While your pain may have subsided, the tooth is in a temporary state and the remaining tooth structure is fragile and unsupported. Without a final restoration your root canal treatment may be compromised and may need to be redone in the future.**

If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to contact us! We are here to help you and wish the best for your dental health.