



Your endodontic treatment is now complete and your continued comfort is important to us. Please wait to eat or drink on the affected side until after the numbness has worn off. This usually occurs within 1-2 hours. While your lip is still numb, you may not feel it if you bite it or burn it with hot liquid.

Discomfort in the area for a day or two is common; however, pain may linger for a period of a few weeks. The gums may be sore, and the tooth may be tender when biting or chewing. Avoid chewing on the affected side until all tenderness is gone. It is also not uncommon to have radiating pain to other areas of the head/neck.

If your medical history will allow, Ibuprofen, (e.g., Advil, Motrin, Nuprin or generic ibuprofen) and Tylenol (acetaminophen, APAP, paracetamol) should relieve most of the discomfort. Follow the directions given by Dr. Tran or Shell for the next two-three days unless directed otherwise. Ibuprofen and Tylenol can be taken simultaneously without risk unless your medical history prevents their use. A regimen of 400mg ibuprofen and 325mg of acetaminophen (Tylenol) taken every 6 hours is effective for most post-operative pain. It is safe to continue the 400mg IBU/325mg APAP for 3 days and then as needed after that. If the pain is more severe, you can take a combination of 600mg IBU/500mg APAP every 6 hours instead.

Occasionally we will give an additional pain medication to take on top of the ibuprofen/Tylenol combination if we think it will be necessary. Please take as directed by Dr. Tran or Dr. Shell. Please be cautious in adding additional pain medication on your own in case it has Tylenol/APAP/Acetaminophen in it as you run the risk of taking too much Tylenol in one day. Please call or text if you have any questions.

Occasionally we will also prescribe an antibiotic. Please take as directed and cease taking 2-3 days after symptoms resolve. In the unlikely event that swelling, fever or severe pain should occur, please call the office or appropriate doctor promptly.

A note and all radiographs are being sent to your dentist informing him/her that endodontic treatment has been completed. If we were able to place the final restoration in your tooth, no further treatment by your dentist is necessary. Otherwise, the opening in your tooth has been sealed **temporarily**. If we have not done so already for you, **PLEASE TELEPHONE YOUR DENTIST PROMPTLY FOR AN APPOINTMENT TO PLACE A FINAL RESTORATION.** We recommend you set up an appointment with your dentist within the next 2-4 weeks. Your dentist is best qualified to determine how to restore your tooth. Frequently it is necessary for this tooth to receive additional protection in the form of a cast restoration (onlay or crown/cap). This will protect the tooth against fracture or infection. Delay in obtaining a final restoration may result in a fracture, failure of the root canal or even possible loss of the tooth.

You may need to return to our office within 6-12 months for re-evaluation of the treated area. If necessary, you will receive a phone call to setup that appointment.

If you have any questions or should difficulties arise as a consequence of your endodontic treatment, please do not hesitate to call our office at (512) 330-9016. If you have an emergency after hours and you are a patient of record, Dr. Shell can be reached at (512) 791-5874 and Dr. Tran can be reached at (512) 799-4179. Please leave a detailed message and we will return your call promptly.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE OF SERVICE.