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## **CARE FOLLOWING ROOT CANAL PROCEDURE**

**Pain:** Mild soreness or tenderness can be expected following a root canal procedure. Take whatever medication you would normally use to treat a headache. If the pain continues for more than one day or if it seems to be increasing, alert Dr. Nealis immediately. There might be a hidden canal or perhaps an infection.

**Severe pain:** Following a root canal visit, though possible, is not expected. If you have pain that over the counter pain relievers do not resolve, call Dr. Nealis. He should be aware of your discomfort and may prescribe a stronger medication. You absolutely should not experience significant pain for any more than a day or two.

**Avoid chewing directly on the tooth being treated:** Teeth receiving a root canal treatment are weakened. Heavy chewing on such teeth can cause them to fracture which could lead to serious complications. The hole which was placed in the chewing surface of your tooth may have been filled with a temporary material. Even light chewing can cause your temporary filling to wear leaving a hole in the surface of the tooth; so try to avoid chewing directly on the tooth.

**If your temporary filling falls out:** Don't panic. This material is designed to come out in layers; so if you feel a hole suddenly form in the tooth, rest assured that only a layer of the temporary filling has come out and that the majority still is intact and is protecting your tooth. Following completion of the root canal process a more durable restoration will be placed.

**Remember:** Soreness is common, severe pain is not. Call the office if severe pain occurs.