

# **Austin Endodontics, L.L.P.**

*Practice Limited to Endodontics*

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## **Patient Information & Consent**

### **What is Root Canal Therapy? What are its benefits?**

Root Canal Treatment is the procedure of cleaning diseased or infected tissue from inside the tooth followed by the placement of a seal in the root canal. Using a local anesthetic, there is little or no discomfort during the procedure. Root canal therapy allows the tooth to remain in the mouth and contributes to sound, healthy and functional dentition for many years, if not a lifetime. The practice of endodontics also includes such procedures as bleaching, inducing closure of immature diseased roots, treatment of traumatic injuries and the fabrication of posts and buildups under crowns.

### **What are the Complications of Treatment?**

With a success rate of approximately 95%, the endodontic therapy is one of the most reliable dental or medical procedures. However, there can be no absolute guarantee regarding treatment success. Some very infrequent complications are, but not limited to, perforations of the tooth or root, damage to existing restorations, the possibility of separation of a portion of an instrument within the tooth which can not be removed and the possibility of pain, swelling and infection. The use of prescription drugs during treatment may also result in an unexpected drug reaction. Any of these complications could result in failure of the procedure requiring possible treatment and/or extraction. However, these complications are very infrequent and not anticipated. Most teeth are saved with no complications at all.

### **What Alternatives do you have?**

Extraction of the tooth is the alternative. If the tooth is removed and not replaced, the empty space will create problems in tooth alignment because of shifting by adjacent teeth. This often results in periodontal (gum) disease and you could lose more teeth as a consequence. The missing tooth may be replaced by an implant, bridge or partial denture, but the cost for this is more expensive than root canal treatment and can involve dental work on adjacent teeth. The option of no treatment results in the persistence or recurrence of pain and infection. The seeking of a second opinion is encouraged if doubt exists.

### **What are your Responsibilities?**

It is important to provide a complete and accurate medical history. Since only root canal treatment is performed at this office, it is your responsibility to make an appointment with your regular dentist for a permanent restoration and/or crown. Payment for these services is your responsibility. Regarding insurance, we will gladly process your insurance. However, if this claim is not paid within 30 days, the balance is your responsibility. Further, if the unpaid balance is turned over for collection, the undersigned shall be responsible for reasonable attorney fees, and all court costs and costs of collection.

*I have read the above form and have been given the opportunity to ask questions. I hereby authorize Dr. Doughty / Dr. Galian / Dr. Galvan and whomever they designate as their assistants to perform examination, diagnostic procedures, and indicated treatment.*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_