



## Endodontic Treatment (Root Canal Therapy)

Root canal therapy, often called Endodontic Treatment, takes two or more appointments to complete. A temporary filling or crown is placed to protect the tooth between appointments. After each appointment when anesthetic has been used, your lips, teeth and tongue may be numb for several hours. Avoid any chewing until the numbness has completely worn off. Between appointments, it's common (and not a problem) for a small portion of your temporary filling to wear away or break off. If the entire filling falls out, or if a temporary crown comes off, call our dental office so it can be replaced.

It's normal to experience some discomfort for several days after a root canal appointment, especially when chewing. To control discomfort, take pain medication as recommended. If antibiotics are prescribed, continue to take them for the indicated length of time, even if all symptoms and signs of infection are gone.

To further reduce pain and swelling, rinse three times a day with warm salt water; dissolve a teaspoon of salt in a cup of warm water, then rinse-swish-spit.

### To protect the tooth and help keep your temporary in place:

- Avoid eating sticky foods (especially gum)
- Avoid hard foods and hard substances, such as ice, fingernails and pencils.
- If possible, chew only on the opposite side of your mouth.
- It's important to continue to brush and floss normally. Usually, the last step after root canal treatment is the placement of a permanent crown on the tooth. A crown covers and protects the tooth from breaking in the future.

If you have persistent or unusual pain, or you have any other questions or concerns, please call our office.

Balle & Associates provides important pre and post-operation instructions along with proper cleaning and oral hygiene information such as flossing, brushing, and diet. Balle & Associates cosmetic and general dentistry of Las Vegas, Nevada would be glad to answer any of your questions pertaining to any of the dental techniques and procedures provided in our office. For more information, please tour our site [www.balledds.com](http://www.balledds.com) or call us at (702) 877-6608 with any questions or concerns.