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### **Post Operative Instructions: Root Canal Therapy and Pulpotomy**

1. **Eating:** You have a temporary filling in your tooth, please wait one hour before eating to allow the materials to fully set. It is not unusual for this temporary filling material to wash out a bit so you may fill a little hole. You may also have some white material come out of the tooth. If food begins to trap in the area or it is uncomfortable to your tongue, please contact the office before your next appointment so we can refill that area.
2. **Numbness:** You have been given anesthetic (numbing medication) please be careful with chewing or drinking. Your mouth will be numb for the next several hours. You may be able to bite your cheek or tongue.
3. **Pain:** It is not unusual to be sore for the first 48 hours after a root canal procedure. Particularly at the anesthetic site. Typically Tylenol, Advil or Motrin will alleviate your discomfort. Please take any of these medications prior to the anesthetic wearing off to help you with your discomfort. If you have been prescribed other medications, please take those to alleviate your pain. If your pain does not subside, or it increases, please contact the office for a re-evaluation.
4. **Hot, Cold and Biting Sensitivity:** A partially completed root canal can be sensitive to hot, cold and chewing for the first several days. However, if the sensitivity continues or increases, please contact the office for an evaluation.
5. **Infection:** Many teeth that need root canal therapy start off infected. If you have been prescribed antibiotics, please ensure you complete the prescription as given. Other root canal teeth may become infected after the procedures are completed. If you experience an increase in pain or swelling, please contact the office for a re-evaluation.
6. **Final Filling:** You currently have a temporary filling. This filling is meant to last only for a short period of time. A more permanent filling and/or crown will need to be done as a separate procedure.
7. **Contact Information:** If you have any problems or questions, please feel free to contact us at (703) 912-3800. If it is after hours, you may reach Dr. Cocolis at (703) 585-6166 or Dr. Ngo at (703) 717-3850.