



Consultation Appointment

Do you have to have a consult appointment? Yes! Even if your regular dentist has said, “You need to have a root canal.” This paper will hopefully inform you of why you need a consultation appointment. Please discontinue any prescribed and/or over the counter pain medicines up to 12hrs before your appointment, to help insure the best results from our tests.

First, we must determine the overall health of your mouth, which includes your teeth, gingiva (gums) and surrounding structures (tongue, cheeks, lips and floor of the mouth). In a lot of instances, successful root canal therapy can be completed, but not in the best interest of your tooth. Second, we want you to understand what needs to be done and why. Also, we will inform you of all your treatment options and the advantages and disadvantages of each option. Lastly, we must have documentation, both legally and medically, of your current diagnosis, so we can recommend the appropriate treatment. Our office never begins treatment without a prior diagnosis.

What can I expect at my consultation appointment?

A chief complaint will be recorded – a storied history of your tooth/teeth in your own words. For example, how your tooth feels, what hurts it, what makes it feel better, does it wake you up at night, can you eat on it, and does hot/cold bother your tooth?

Dental radiographs will be taken – we appreciate the dental radiographs your dentist may send with you. We will look at these and compare with the ones taken at your consultation appointment. You can expect our staff to take three pictures, because we want as much information as possible about your tooth. These three radiographs, help us to understand your tooth as a three-dimensional object. Root canal systems are like snowflakes, fingerprints, and people – no one is the same...each and every root canal system is different and we take this approach on each and every case.

Periodontal probings will be recorded – this helps with the supporting structures of the tooth. Also, helps us in determining types of root fractures. Along with probing, mobility (how much if at all your tooth moves or rocks) will be recorded.

Vitality testing will be recorded – this gives the diagnosis of your dental pulp (whether the tooth is dead or alive). We can use up to three (cold, hot, electric) tests to determine this. Sometimes, this can result in triggering a toothache. If this happens we are ready to numb your tooth to provide relief of the toothache. None of the three tests can cause harm to your tooth and/or restoration.

Palpation (feeling around your teeth) will be recorded.

Percussion (pushing and tapping) and bite tests will be recorded.

Transillumination can help – shining light on your tooth to visualize cracks.