

# encinitas endodontic specialists

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## CONSENT FOR ROOT CANAL EVALUATION AND THERAPY (Surgical or Non-Surgical)

This office believes that you should be informed about your treatment and that you should give your consent prior to starting that treatment. The purpose of this form is to make you aware of some risks that may occur from endodontic (root canal) treatment. While 95% of root canals are completed successfully, there are a small percentage of patients who may not respond to treatment and could experience procedural failure and ultimate tooth loss.

1. **The success of root canal therapy is influenced by many factors.** Your general health, adequate gum attachment and bone support, shape and condition of the roots and nerve canals, quality of previous dental care, and pre-existing fractures, all affect individual healing.
2. **Teeth treated with root canal therapy can still decay but because the nerve is gone, there will be no pain.** Good oral hygiene and periodic check-ups are necessary for maintaining dental health.
3. **The treated tooth may remain sensitive following appointments.** If sensitivity persists and does not seem to be getting better please phone the office for an appointment. Usually, administration of an appropriate medication will quickly resolve the problem. It is normal for a treated tooth to be sensitive for one week after the final appointment and to feel different than the surrounding teeth for another few weeks.
4. **In some teeth, regular root canal therapy alone may not be sufficient.** If the canals are severely curved or calcified, if there is substantial infection in the bone around the roots, or if an instrument breaks and remains within the canal, the tooth may remain sensitive and an endodontic surgery procedure at additional cost may be necessary to adequately treat your tooth or bone.
5. **Tooth fracture is one of the main reasons why root canal therapy fails.** Unfortunately, some cracks that extend from the crown into the roots, or solely in the root, are invisible and undetectable. They can occur on uncrowned teeth from traumatic injury, biting on hard objects, habitual clenching or grinding, and even just normal wear and tear. Whether the fracture occurs before or after the root canal, it will probably still require extraction.
6. **Teeth treated with root canal therapy may be more brittle than other teeth.** After the root canal treatment, to prevent damage that might mean losing the tooth, crowning (capping) is often required. However, some anterior teeth could possibly be filled with a bonded tooth-colored filling. On rare occasions, the tooth can fracture in spite of being crowned.
7. **There are alternatives to root canal therapy.** They include extraction, extraction followed by a bridge, partial denture, implant, or no treatment at all.
8. **Risks of endodontic surgery.** Endodontic surgery carries some additional risks including but not limited to bleeding, altered sensations including numbness or tingling of the lip, tongue, chin, gums, cheek and teeth.
9. **Damage to existing restorations or adjacent teeth.** The porcelain may fracture or chip during treatment on teeth with existing porcelain crowns, onlays or inlays. Our access into the teeth is always kept as minimal as possible, but there is still a chance of chipping or breakage when porcelain is cut. If fracture occurs, your general dentist may need to make a new restoration for the tooth.

Please don't hesitate to ask if you have any further questions. I understand that dentistry is not an exact science and success with root canal therapy cannot be guaranteed. With the information that has been provided me I hereby authorize Joseph L. Packer, DMD, MSD to proceed with the treatment recommended.

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Patient Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Doctor's Initial's / Assistant's Initial's

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Signature of Patient (Guardian if patient is minor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date: