

## What to expect after your dental work today—

The dental work you had performed today was extensive. Due to the size of the old filling and the decay underneath it, we operated in very close proximity to the pulp (nerve) of this tooth. Anytime damage to a tooth is this extensive, changes can occur in the pulp. These changes may or may not result in symptoms. Because, it is impossible to determine the exact condition of a pulp, we don't always know what will happen.

It is important that you understand that:

1. Every time that a tooth decays and is filled, the pulp is irritated. This results in a reversible inflammation and manifest itself as the sensitivity you get in the weeks after having a filling placed.
2. Repeated dental work on a tooth or a leaking filling can cause a chronic irreversible inflammation of the nerve. This process can take many years and is usually completely painless until it turns into a toothache.
3. The pulp inside a tooth can even completely die without your knowledge until it becomes infected and swollen.
4. This process can often not be detected, even with x-ray images, until the infection actually destroys the bone surrounding the tooth.
5. When we repair teeth with large, deep fillings, we are often unknowingly working on teeth with these kinds of conditions. Even though we use the most advanced techniques in dentistry to give the tooth a "fighting chance", the short term irritation can trigger symptoms of sensitivity, pain or even swelling
6. Not repairing these teeth will inevitably lead to these symptoms and possible tooth loss

If the pulp in the tooth is still healthy enough to repair itself, the techniques and materials we use in our office give it opportunity to do so. Because of these advanced techniques, we give teeth, which in other offices would immediately be treated by performing a Root Canal Treatment, a chance to heal. Statistically, 4% of all teeth treated such as yours will require Root Canal Treatment in the future.

Everything that we did today was designed to minimize the possibility of having these types of post-operative problems, but as you can see, without you knowing it, the damage may already have been done.

### **Please call us immediately if you experience any of these symptoms:**

1. Sensitivity to biting pressure (a small adjustment in the biting surface is needed)
2. Sensitivity to hot or cold which lingers (sensitivity to temperature which goes away completely very quickly is expected after most dental work)
3. Throbbing or aching in the area where the root of the tooth is
4. Sharp, shooting pain that is difficult to localize
5. Any sign of swelling or an area that feels hot

### **After hours Emergency:**

Call 1-248-526-9680 If we do not answer directly, leave a message and we will return your telephone call as soon as possible.