

ARROWHEAD LAKES DENTISTRY

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THIS INFORMATION IS FOR GENERAL USE ONLY.
YOUR INDIVIDUAL SITUATION MAY VARY.
CONSULT YOUR DENTIST FOR SPECIFIC
RECOMMENDATIONS.

Tooth Drainage

A tooth has been opened for drainage to relieve pain and to eliminate infection. To help the process and speed healing, please follow these instructions:

1. There is a hole in the middle of your tooth. For the present time, we mean to leave it that way. This allows pus, gas, or infection to vent or drain out, decreasing the pressure on the inside. With the pressure relieved, the pain will go away. You may have a bad, sour taste in your mouth for the next few days.
2. Brush and floss and maintain your mouth as normal. However, do not go to extra efforts to pick food out of the hole in the center of the tooth, as this may push debris inside of the canal.
3. The numbness will last for several hours. Be very careful not to bite your lip, tongue, or cheek in the meantime.
4. After the numbness wears off, there could be some pain. If you were prescribed pain medication, take it as directed. Do not take the medication on an empty stomach or nausea may result. If the medication contains a narcotic, be very careful driving or doing any other activity which requires full mental capacity.
5. When the time comes that you no longer need the strong prescribed pain medication, you may stop using it and take aspirin, Tylenol, Advil, or other over-the-counter pain medication. Pain medication is optional.
6. If an antibiotic was prescribed, take the pills as directed until finished even if all symptoms and signs of infection are gone.
7. **YOU MUST RETURN TO HAVE THE ROOT CANAL COMPLETED** and to have the tooth properly restored, please make the appropriate appointment to have the procedure finished.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office.