

Re: Root canal w/ serious problems

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- *From:* Steven Bornfeld <dentalwinospam@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 08 Oct 2005 21:13:51 GMT
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Sherry via MedKB.com wrote:

About 4 months ago I began the root canal process. I was put on an antibiotic on Friday afternoon and was drilled on Monday morning. Is this enough time to allow the infection to go away? I questioned them and they said the antibiotics would start to work immediately. Anyway, he placed temporary fillings in 2 teeth that were right next to each other - upper left bicuspid and a molar. I was told that I would have some pain for a couple of days. I was told to continue my antibiotic and was also put on Ibuprofen 800mg for pain. My appointment for the rest of the root canal was scheduled to be done in two weeks. The pain did not go away in a couple of days. I was scheduled to go to New York the weekend before my next appointment to finish the root canal. I called the dentist's office and told them that it had been a week and a half and I was still experiencing pain, that I was to go to NYC that weekend, and I did not want to have any problems with my teeth at that time. I was then told that sometimes the pain would last as long as two weeks. I went on my trip and was miserable! The pain would really flare up when I rode the subway (I am guessing that it was due to all the jostling)

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I went to have the root canal done on that Wednesday after my trip. I told him that I was still having pain. He shot me up about three times with novacaine and waited til he thought I was numb. He began to place the rubber dam over my teeth. I stopped him and told him that I could really feel that. He shot me up a couple of more times. Shouldn't the pain associated with just the placement of the rubber dam have tipped him off that maybe something wasn't right? He began drilling and I could feel a little pain, which was bearable, and a lot of pressure. I just assumed that this was normal. Then he irrigated the tooth. When he did this, I could feel cold, bleachy tasting liquid go up into my cheek and swish around all the way up to my eye. Again, I thought this was normal or maybe just a sensation from the novacaine. After the procedure was finished, he refilled my antibiotic and wrote me an Rx for Vicodan.

My face was a little puffy that night, but just assumed that it was normal due to the trauma of what had been done. The next day it was still puffy. However, on Friday morning it was very swollen. I didn't call

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the dentist, I just stopped in, unannounced, and asked if this was normal. He took one look at me and said, "Oh, my!" He then wrote me another Rx for a different antibiotic and told me to take it conjunction with the one I was already taking and told me to stop in on Monday morning. Saturday morning when I woke, my face was swollen all the way up to and around my eye. When I bent over to pick up some dirty clothes a bunch of rusty colored liquid came running out of my nose. I spent the rest of the day with my head hanging over the edge of the bed trying to drain all that crap out of my face. I felt a little better the next day and the swelling had gone down some. When I got to his office on Monday, I told he what had happened and told him that I was concerned about having infection spread to my brain. He didn't look all that concerned. He put me on a Medrol Dose Pack (oral steroid) to take with my antibiotics.

I went back to see him every Friday for the next month. He took an x-ray each time I said that I was still experiencing pain. All he ever said was, "The x-rays look okay." He would occasionally change my antibiotic. On one of my Friday visits he told me that the problem was that the roots of my molar had grown into my sinuses. Couldn't he see this on the very first x-ray he took before any work was performed? On my last visit to him he told me that he needed to cap the teeth as I "was compromising the integrity of my teeth." I told him that I was reluctant to have any more work done at this time due to all the pain that I was having. He told me to make an appointment to come in in two weeks to have the work finished. I went to the receptionist and told her that he wanted me back in two weeks, but to schedule it for four weeks to allow the pain to go away. They always want at least half of the payment up front, which in this case was \$840, and I didn't have it and that I would be able to come up with the money in a month as opposed to two weeks.

After two weeks after my last visit to the dentist, my pain still had not subsided and I went to a medical doctor. I told him that I was experiencing dizziness, light-headedness, loss of balance, loss of concentration, itchy rash that would turn into pustules (pimple like), burning sensation behind my left eye, tingling in my left cheek that would radiate up and around my head, pain under my cheek bone, and that I suspected that I may have something systemic because I did not feel right. He ordered blood work and a CAT scan of my sinuses. Both came back negative and I was told to see a specialist.

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I went a couple of weeks ago to see an ENT. He basically laughed at me since nothing showed up on my CAT scan. He told me the pain was coming from my tooth. I asked how that could be when the roots are supposedly dead. He said that wasn't a dentist. He said that the CAT scan did show that I have a deviated septum and a prominent nasal spur and the spur could cause headaches. I told him that I guess that I have always had that spur and I had very rarely experienced headaches. He told me that I should go back to the dentist and have him cap my teeth.

I am at a loss as to what to do next. No one seems concerned about my symptoms and I am beginning to get more than a little worried. I believe that he filled my teeth with gutta-percha, which I have recently discovered contains approximately 5% mercury. Could I have mercury poisoning? I have also learned that oxygen deprived bacteria continue to live inside that tooth and can leach out making you sick. Why don't dentists recognize this even with documentation?

Any advise would be greatly appreciated. I don't like the fact that my dentist wanted to continue the root canal work even though I insisted that I was still in pain.

That's a lot of questions.

There is no way I can answer specifically to your situation.

Unfortunately it is not rare to start a root canal and to stir up a hornets nest--a chronic low-grade infection can go acute. In this situation it can be far more difficult or even impossible to achieve good anesthesia.

Doing the root canal should eliminate the infection, but sometimes some infected material can be forced up past the tip of the roots and cause an infection similar to what you've had.

I am slightly concerned that from your description your dentist MAY have irrigated some fluid past the tip of the root. This can cause a very florid and occasionally serious reaction in itself.

My advice is that you have an endodontist (root canal specialist) have a look at the tooth, and tell him/her everything you've written here.

BTW, gutta percha contains no mercury--at least no gutta percha I've ever seen. It is latex, and some barium salts are mixed in to make it visible on x-ray.

Steve

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