

## Re: Root Canal On #31 – What Am I In For?

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.med.dentistry/2006-12/msg00358.html>

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  - *Date:* Mon, 11 Dec 2006 21:27:19 GMT
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Patrick Melton wrote:

I've never been a fan of the dentist. I'm 27 years old. I'm a bit of a baby – can't stand needles, pain, and I really psych myself out about things. I was recently diagnosed with diabetes, so I'm getting better with the needles, but the whole idea still creeps me out. And again, I hate pain and the anticipation of pain.

In 2000, I went to the dentist for the first time in about 8 years. I had 4 cavities filled and two crowns redone (#8 and #9 – yep, my two front teeth). I busted them out in a playground accident when I was little, and eventually had to get a root canal on #9. All of these traumatic experiences probably are the reason for my uneasiness and anxiety when it comes to anything to do with the dentist. My entire experience in 2000 was good, though – sure I don't like the shots, but it's just a pinch, and I got over it. The crown replacement went well, the cavities got filled painlessly, and everything was a much better memory in my mind.

Still, I failed to go to the dentist regularly, despite the fact that I have dental insurance. I just put it off, and put it off, and before I know it, it's 2006. I hadn't been to the dentist in 6 years AGAIN. And to top it off, I don't floss – ever. One day in August I noticed by feeling with my tongue on the back of #8 that there felt like a crack or chip in the crown. So I went to the dentist. They confirmed there was a small crack, did a deep cleaning on my teeth, and I've also had 4 more fillings since August. They again, were positive experiences compared to my memories and the pain I had been telling myself would be coming.

The last filling that I got was in #17 – the wisdom tooth. It was pretty uneventful, except when I got the shot prior to the filling it felt like he hit a nerve because after the slight pinch I've come to expect and tolerate there was a very sharp, very real, very extreme pain for a few seconds. This SUCKED. But I got the filling and that was last Friday, and all is well, no pain.

The thing is, while I was there, they did an x-ray of the area of my

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previous filling (I think to just check to make sure the bite was right in that area) and they found another cavity on #31. He told me that is close to the pulp of the tooth, and told me to go to an endodontist to have it checked out to see if I would need a root canal, and told me I probably would. However, on the referral slip he