



Technology Virtually Eliminates Root Canal Pain – WDIV-TV (NBC4, Detroit, MI)

July 17, 2007

It's one of the most dreaded dental procedures, but experts insist a root canal doesn't have to be painful.

Laurie Smith had her first root canal 20 years ago and another just two months ago.

"It's 100 percent pain-free once the anesthetic is in," said Smith. "It's very straightforward, like getting your hair cut or your nails done."

So what's changed? Dr. Richard Rubinstein of Endodontic Associates in Farmington Hills, Mich., credits better anesthetics and new technology, including powerful surgical operating microscopes and digital X-rays. Rubinstein's operating microscope allows him to magnify the surgical area up to 32 times.

"Clearly if you can see a procedure better, you can do it better," Rubinstein explained. "You're not going to miss any of the canals that might have been missed in the past."

Replacing traditional X-rays with digital images means Rubinstein can instantly show patients detailed images of their problem teeth.

"Most of the patients go 'wow,'" Rubinstein said. "They never realized that a root canal procedure or the root canal anatomy was that complex."

Rubinstein is an endodontist, part of a specialized field that focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the teeth's root canals.

To find an endodontist near you, go to: www.aae.org/patients/patientinfo/find_endodontist.htm.

To learn more about root canal procedures, go to: www.webmd.com/oral-health/dental-root-canals.