

“Five Comforting Things You May Want to Know About Modern Endodontics.”

(A Root Canal...No longer a dreaded experience.)

“A root canal, sweetie,” her dad told her. “The dentist told me today I have to have a root canal.” The tone of his voice echoed the anxiety he felt.

Sandi, who worked as the practice manager for a large dental group, knew she could calm her father’s anxiety if she could just get him to listen. Usually, he was the one giving advice. But today, she was the one who had the wisdom.

“Dad,” she said, “That old saying, ‘It’s like pulling teeth’ still works when you need an analogy for something difficult. But, the figure of speech, ‘I’d rather have a root canal’ has lost its punch.” She could see her father was starting to listen.

“Daddy, the term root canal still sounds ominous, but the procedure definitely isn’t.” She grinned and wrinkled her freckled nose, as she said, “I think they should call it something else, like a ‘canal cleaning,’ or a ‘tooth perm.’ The way they do root canals today is no longer a dreaded experience.”

“Endodontics – that’s the fancy name for root canal dentistry – has come a long way like a lot of things. The place we send our patients when they need a root canal is simply awesome. As highly trained specialists, they do ‘canal cleanings’ all day long, so they are really good at it. Not only are they good at what they do, they try to make your time with them as pleasant as a day at the spa. They treat you so well...you’ll be tempted to stay.”

Her dad breathed a sigh of disbelief but had a hopeful look that said he wanted to hear more.

Sandi went on to explain that Endodontist have made a highly technical procedure pretty simple for the patient. For example, she said, “A root canal used to take two or three visits. Now, it takes just one. In less time than it takes you to play nine holes of golf, you’re done.”

“Also, you know how freaked out people are about the radiation build-up that comes from having numerous x-rays?”

“I sure do, and I’m one of those freaks,” he said. “With all my trips to the x-ray lab, I’ve worried about that quite a bit.”

“Well, today, they use digital X-ray,” Sandi said. “I can’t explain it. I’m an office manager, not a Dentist, but I know that it puts out only 20-30% as much radiation as traditional film X-ray.”

Sandi’s dad grinned and joked, “You’re so excited about this, I think I’ll let you have that root canal for me.”

That’s when she gave him a look she’d given him a million times before. He knew he deserved it and figured he’d better just keep listening.

“Dad, that’s not all, the medicines are much better today. The procedure is virtually pain-free, and these specialists we send our patients to--They are not only skilled; they are kind. They do the things that make you feel safe and cared for. Today’s root canal resembles the old days about as much as your Expedition resembles the Model T.”

He said, “I don’t know if I’ll like this ‘canal cleaning’ as much as I like my Expedition, but you’ve almost got me excited enough to call and see if they can move my appointment up. My doc got me in at Southern Arizona Endodontics.”

She dropped back in her chair, tossed her long red hair a certain way and gave him another one of her looks. He’d always loved it when she looked at him that way.

“That’s the place,” she said. “It’s where we send all our patients who need a ‘tooth perm.’ They rave about it to us when they come back in! I know you don’t do much raving... you’re so cool and all that... but I can hear next week’s tee-box conversation now. And, I can see your buddies...heading for their dentist office as soon as the round is over...to see if they could use a good ‘canal cleaning’.”

Five comforting things you may want to know about modern Endodontics

- One visit instead of two or three.
- Improved medications.
- New procedures and high-tech tools.
- Digital X-ray, only 20-30% as much radiation experienced with traditional film X-ray.
- Gulf Coast Endodontics...The premier Endodontic team. They drain every drop of dread out of Endodontic Dentistry.