

INFORMED CONSENT FORM FOR DENTAL TREATMENT

FILLINGS

BENEFITS :

- Eliminate decay
- Relieve pain
- Fill in a hole or space in a tooth
- Cover eroded areas
- Protect a sensitive surface

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS :

- Tooth may abscess from the filling
- May fracture the tooth
- Tooth may be sensitive to temperature changes
- Toxicity from the silver filling is alleged by some
- Filling may fall out

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING THE WORK NOT DONE OR POSTPONING :

- May lose the tooth
- Tooth may fracture
- Decay will get larger
- Pain will get worse
- May result in need for a root canal

ALTERNATIVES :

- Temporary filling
- Extraction

EXTRACTIONS

BENEFITS :

- Last resort for non-salvageable tooth
- Eliminate pain
- Remove teeth that are out of position
- Eliminate infection

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS :

- Fractured particles may remain
- Irritation to nerves may cause temporary or permanent numbness
- Part or all of the tooth may be lodged in sinus, requiring more surgery
- Bad infections may take longer time to clear up
- Jaw may be stiff and difficult to open for a time
- If jaw bone is very weak it may fracture

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING :

- Spread of infection
- Swelling
- Pain

ALTERNATIVES :

- None

X-RAYS

BENEFITS :

- More complete diagnosis
- Can find hidden problems
- Can make a determination of treatment
- X-rays taken by qualified personnel

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS :

- Exposure to x-ray radiation (minimal)
- X-rays pictures remain the property of the dental office

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING :

- Can not perform dental services

ALTERNATIVES :

- None

CLEANING _ SCALING

BENEFITS :

- Look nicer
- Clean mouth
- Eliminate odors
- Prevent gum disease
- Some portions may be performed by auxiliary personnel

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS :

- Sensitive teeth
- Feeling of spaces between teeth
- Filling may be loosened (normal if filling was ready to fall out)
- Sensitive gums

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING :

- Stains on teeth
- Odors
- Gum disease
- Will lose teeth sooner

ALTERNATIVES :

- None

BONDED FACING

BENEFITS :

- Aesthetics - they look nice
- Cover crooked teeth
- Close spaces and gaps
- Cover discolored teeth

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS :

- Edges can stain after a time and need to be freshened up (additional fee)
- Breakage can occur, resulting in the need for remake
- Difficult to remove

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING :

- None (other than appearance)

ALTERNATIVES :

- Crowns

LOCAL ANESTHETICS

BENEFITS :

- Avoid the pain during treatments and procedures

POSSIBLE COMPLICATION :

- Prolonged numbness may extend beyond normal

- Nerve damage

- Bruising (hematoma)

- In rare instances, possible consequences may include all those applicable to General Anesthesia, including allergic reactions up to and including death (separate detail information sheet is available on request)

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVE WORK DONE OR POSTPONING :

- Mild to severe pain during and after treatment

ALTERNATIVES :

- Willingness to accept pain during treatment

CROWNS - CAPS

- BENEFITS :**
 Make you look nicer (cosmetic)
 To repair a tooth which is badly broken down
 To prevent a tooth from fracturing
 To restore a tooth which has broken
 To eliminate a space where food is being trapped
 To hold a false tooth in place as part of a bridge
 To make a solid structure to attach a partial denture
 To splint loose teeth together to strengthen them
 The tooth can no longer be filled
- POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS :**
 Porcelain portion of crown may fracture
 Crown may come off and need to be recemented
 Tooth may abscess and require further treatment (may not show up until later)
 Future decay may require a filling or new crown
- CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING :**
 Tooth will probably fracture
 Tooth may need to be extracted
 May need a root canal in addition to the crown
 May need bridge work or dentures
- ALTERNATIVES :**
 Extraction
 Temporary crown
 Steel crown

BRIDGEWORK

- BENEFITS :**
 Make you look nicer
 To replace missing teeth
 Missing teeth are not removable
 Some of the same advantages as crowns
 Can improve chewing efficiency
- POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS :**
 Same as crowns
- CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING :**
 Teeth will drift and lean over
 May lose back teeth due to shifting
 Periodontal problems (Gum disease)
 Can reduce chewing efficiency
- ALTERNATIVES :**
 Partials
 Temporary partials
 No teeth in the spaces

PARTIALS (REMOVABLE BRIDGEWORK)

- BENEFITS :**
 Cost
- POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS :**
 Can wear on teeth
 Can rock or stress teeth - may loosen own natural teeth
 Metal clasps are sometimes visible
 Decay can occur under clasps
 Usually some amount of movement from the partial
- CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING :**
 Same as under bridgework
- ALTERNATIVES**
 Bridgework
 Temporary partial
 Keep spaces without teeth placement

ROOT CANAL

- BENEFITS :**
 Eliminate infection
 Relieve pain
 Save a tooth
- POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS :**
 Undiagnosable root fracture means failure and extraction
 Undiagnosable auxiliary canal means failure and extraction
- CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING :**
 Extraction of tooth
- ALTERNATIVES :**
 Extraction
 Bridgework

GUM SURGERY (GINGIVECTOMY)

- BENEFITS :**
 Eliminate infection
 Reduce food pockets around teeth
 Eliminate foul odors
 Reduce overgrown tissue
 Can eliminate tartar effectively
- POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS :**
 May be repeated after a time
 Some after pain
 Might lose teeth if they don't respond to treatment
- CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING :**
 Will lose teeth sooner
 May not get rid of infection
- ALTERNATIVES :**
 More frequent appointment for scaling

NAME OF PATIENT : _____

NAME OF GUARDIAN : _____

I HAVE READ THE ABOVE STATEMENTS AND HAVE RECEIVED A COPY OF THEM, AND RECOGNIZED THEIR IMPORTANCE IN HELPING ME MAKE DECISIONS. I RECOGNIZE THAT FAILURE CAN OCCUR FOR VARIOUS REASONS AND THAT COMPLICATIONS CAN OCCUR IN ANY PROCEDURE. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT WHERE DECAY HAS OCCURED OR A TOOTH HAS FRACTURE OR ABSESSED THESE SAME FORCES ARE STILL WORKING ON THE TOOTH EVEN AFTER IT HAS BEEN RESTORED ; THEREFORE, DECAY OR FRACTURE CAN STILL OCCURE AS THE RESTORED TOOTH IS NO BETTER WHAT NATURE HAS GIVEN IN THE FIRST PLACE. IN ORDER TO RECIEVE TREATMENT I CONTRACT THAT IF THERE IS ANY DIFFERENCE OR DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN MY ATTENDING DENTIST AND MYSELF I WILL FIRST PRESENT SUCH DIFFERENCE OR DISAGREEMENT TO MY ATTENDING DENTIST IN ORDER TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM. IF WE ARE UNABLE TO AGREE ON A SOLUTION, THEN I AGREE TO TAKE THE PROBLEM TO A RECONCILIATION BOARD SUCH AS THE DENTAL SOCIETY OR CALIFORNIA STATE CONSUMER AFFAIRS BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS AND AGREE TO ACCEPT THEIR RESOLUTION IN LIEU OF PURSUING REMEDIES BY WAY OF LITIGATION, IN CONSIDERATION OF HELPING TO KEEP THE COSTS OF TREATMENT AND SERVICES AS LOW AS POSSIBLE. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THIS AGREEMENT IS BINDING ON MY HEIRS AND ALL OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS.

SIGNATURE

DATE