



INFORMED CONSENT FOR DENTAL TREATMENT

Patient Name: _____

Date: _____

X-RAYS

BENEFITS:

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

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:

- Exposure to X-Ray radiation (minimal)
- X-Ray pictures remain the property of this office

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE or POSTPONING

- Cannot perform dental services

ALTERNATIVES:

- None

CLEANING – SCALING

BENEFITS:

- Look nicer
- Clean mouth
- Eliminate odors
- Prevent odors
- Prevents 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 fallout)
- Sensitive gums

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE or POSTPONING

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

ALTERNATIVES:

- None

LOCAL ANESTHETICS

BENEFITS:

- Avoid pain during treatments and procedures

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:

- Prolonged numbness may extend beyond normal
- Nerve damage
- Bruising (hematoma)
- In rare instances possible consequences may include all those applicable

General Anesthesia including allergic reactions up to and including death

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE or POSTPONING

- Mild to severe pain during and after treatment

ALTERNATIVES:

- Willingness to accept pain during treatment

FILLINGS

BENEFITS:

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

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:

- Tooth may abscess from the filing
- May fracture the tooth
- Tooth will be sensitive to temperature change
- Toxicity from silver fillings is alleged by some
- Filling may fallout
- May result in need for a root canal

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE or POSTPONING:

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

ALTERNATIVES:

- Temporary filling

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 tooth may be lodged in sinus requiring more surgery
- Bad infections may take long time to clear up
- Jaw may be stiff and difficult to open for a time
- If Jawbone is very weak it may fracture

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE or POSTPONING:

- Spread of infection
- Swelling
- Pain

ALTERNATIVES:

- None
- May need bridgework or denture

ROOT CANAL

BENEFITS:

- Eliminate decay
- Relieve Pain
- Save the 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

BRIDGEWORK

BENEFITS:

- Make you look nicer
- To replace missing teeth
- Missing teeth are **not** removable
- Can improve chewing efficiency

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:

- Porcelain portion of bridge may fracture
- Bridge 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 bridge

CONSEQUENCES:

- Teeth will drift and lean over
- May lose back teeth due to shifting
- Periodontal problems (Gum disease)
- Can reduce chewing efficiency

ALTERNATIVES:

- Partial
- 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

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 no longer can 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

ALTERNATIVES:

- Extraction
- Temporary Crown

ROOT CANAL

BENEFITS:

- Eliminate decay
- Relieve Pain
- Save the 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

BONDING

BENEFITS:

- Esthetics - they look really 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 need for remake
- Difficult to remove

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE or POSTPONING:

- None (other than appearance)

ALTERNATIVES:

- Crowns

I have read the above statements and have received a copy of them if requested, and recognize their importance in helping me make decisions. My initials indicate that I have read and understand this consent document. I recognize that failures can occur for all kinds of reasons and that complications can occur during any procedure. I also understand that, where decay has occurred, or a tooth has fractured or abscessed, that these same forces are still working on the tooth even after it has been restored: therefore, decay or fracture can still occur as the restored tooth is no better than what nature has given in the first place. If for any reason a conflict or disagreement should arise I will first present such conflict 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 mediation board and agree to accept their resolution in lieu of pursuing remedies by way of litigation. I also understand that this agreement is binding on my heirs and all other family members. I now give my consent to the attending dentist to render to me the dental treatment that we have agreed is necessary for myself. I also agree to reimburse the attending dentist for all services rendered to me, and I am aware that the payment for these services is due at the time they are rendered.

Signature of Patient/Responsible Party