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INFORMED CONSENT 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
- Reduce chance of additional treatment

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:

- May fracture tooth
- May weaken the tooth
- Tooth may decay or abscess out of sight under restoration or at the margin and require further or additional treatment
- Pain and sensitivity
- Tooth maybe subject to temperature change
- Toxicity from metal amalgam or silver fillings is alleged by some
- Fillings may fracture or fall out

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK 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
- Spread of infection causing serious injury or rarely death

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
- Dry socket may occur
- Irritation to nerve may cause temporary or permanent numbness
- Part or all of tooth may be lodged in sinus or other bone, requiring more surgery
- Pain and sensitivity
- 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 causing serious injury or worse
- 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-Ray pictures remain the property of dental office (copies can be obtained)

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING:

- Possible less accurate diagnosis
- May not be able to perform dental services

ALTERNATIVES:

- None

CLEANING-SCALING-ROOT PLANING

BENEFITS:

- Look nicer
- Clean mouth
- Eliminate 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 fillings were ready to fall out)
- Sensitive and painful gums
- Increased sensitivity to temperature

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING:

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

ALTERNATIVES:

- None

BONDED FACINGS-VENEERS

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 or changed (additional fee)
- Pain and sensitivity
- Breakage can occur, resulting in the need to be remade
- Difficult to remove
- See also complications for Crowns

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING:

- None (other than appearance)

ALTERNATIVES:

- Crowns

BRIDGEWORK

BENEFITS:

- Make you look nicer
- To replace missing teeth
- Bridgework teeth are not removable
- Some of same advantages as Crowns
- Can improve chewing efficiency

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:

- Same as Crowns and similar restorations

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING:

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

ALTERNATIVES:

- Implants
- Partials
- Temporary partials

CROWNS-CAPS-INLAYS-ONLAYS (AND SIMILAR RESTORATIONS)

BENEFITS:

- Make you look nicer
- Repair a tooth which is badly broken down
- Reduce chance of a fractured tooth
- Repair a tooth which has broken
- Reduce space where food is being trapped
- Hold a false tooth in place as part of a bridge
- Make a solid structure to attach a partial denture
- Splint loose teeth together to strengthen them

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:

- The tooth no longer can be filled
- Any portion of restoration including porcelain may fracture
- Restoration may come off and need to be re-cemented
- Tooth may decay or abscess out of sight under restoration or at the margin and require further or additional treatment
- Pain and sensitivity
- Food may get trapped between the teeth
- Future decay may require a filling or a new crown
- Tooth can fracture/crack with normal chewing and need to be extracted

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING:

- Tooth will probably fracture
- Tooth may need to be extracted
- May need a root canal and or post in addition to a crown
- May need bridgework, implant, partial or full dentures

ALTERNATIVES:

- Extraction
- Filling
- Temporary crown
- Steel crown

ROOT CANAL

BENEFITS:

- Eliminate infection
- Relieve Pain
- Save the tooth

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:

- Un-diagnosable root fracture means failure and extraction
- Endodontic files may separate and tooth may be lost
- Pain and sensitivity
- Un-diagnosable auxiliary canal means failure and extraction
- Once a tooth has received a root canal, it tends to be more brittle and weak. For this reason, a crown on the tooth needs to be done. Without this protection, there is a significant chance of the tooth fracturing which may require extraction.
- Occasionally, one of the delicate instruments used for this procedure (file) will break off inside the tooth. If we are unable to remove the broken piece of instrument, it may be close enough to the end of the root that we may elect to leave it place and fill the canal behind the obstruction. If this is not an option or if it is attempted without success, you may require other treatment at an additional charge to you.

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING:

- Extraction of tooth
- Spread of infection causing serious injury or worse

ALTERNATIVES:

NAME OF PATIENT: _____ NAME OF GUARDIAN: _____

I HAVE READ THE ABOVE STATEMENTS AND HAVE RECEIVED A COPY OF THEM, AND RECOGNIZE THEIR IMPORTANCE IN HELPING ME MAKE DECISIONS. I RECOGNIZE THAT FAILURES CAN OCCUR FOR VARIOUS REASONS AND THAT COMPLICATIONS CAN OCCUR IN ANY PROCEDURE. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT WHERE DECAY HAS OCCURRED OR A TOOTH HAS FRACTURED OR ABSCESSSED 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 THAT WHAT NATURE HAS GIVEN IN THE FIRST PLACE.

MANY DENTAL TREATMENTS REQUIRE MORE THAN ONE VISIT TO COMPLETE. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOT ALLOWED, I AGREE TO COME BACK INTO THE OFFICE FOR ANY FOLLOW UP CARE NEEDED COMPLETE EACH 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 BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND AGREE TO ACCEPT THEIR RESOLUTION IN LIEU OF PURSUING REMEDIES BY WAY OF LITIGATION, IN CONSIDERATION OF HELPING TO KEEP 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.

IF I CONSENT TO HAVE MY PICTURE OR VIDEO TAKEN OF ME WHILE IN THE DENTAL OFFICE, THAT PICTURE OR VIDEO AND MY NAME MAY BE USED BY THE DENTAL PRACTICE IN PUBLIC PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL FOR THE PRACTICE INCLUDING PUBLICATION ON THE INTERNET.

- Extraction
- Bridgework or Implant Procedures

PARTIALS (REMOVABLE BRIDGEWORK)

BENEFITS:

- Gap between teeth is reduced
- Usually lower cost that non-removable bridgework

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
- Need to be relined from time to time (additional cost)

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING

Same as under bridgework

ALTERNATIVES:

- Bridgework
- Temporary partial
- Keep spaces without teeth placement
- Implant(s)

GUM SURGERY (GINGIVECTOMY)

BENEFITS:

- Eliminate infection
- Reduce food pockets around teeth
- Eliminate foul odors
- Reduce overgrown tissue
- Eliminate tartar effectively

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:

- May need to be repeated after a time
- Some after pain
- Might lose teeth if they do not respond to treatment

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING:

- Will lose teeth sooner
- May not get rid of infection

ALTERNATIVES:

More frequent appointments for scaling

LOCAL ANESTHETICS

BENEFITS:

- Avoid pain during treatments and procedures

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:

- Prolonged numbness may extend beyond normal
- Permanent nerve damage
- Bruising (hematoma)
- In rare instances, possible consequence may include all those applicable to General Anesthesia, including allergic reactions up to and including death (separate detail information sheet is available upon request)

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING:

Mild to severe pain during and after treatment

ALTERNATIVES:

Willingness to accept pain during treatment

SIGNATURE

DATE