

Informed Consent

Informed consent means that you, the patient, understands the benefits and risks of any proposed dental procedure and agrees to have the procedure (s) performed by the dentist. We certainly strive for the best outcomes but there are no guarantees in health care.

1. Periodontal Treatment

There are rarely any adverse outcomes in periodontal treatment. However, there is always a risk of post-operative sensitivity and bacterial infections.

In patients with pre-existing heart conditions or recent joint surgery, pre-medication with antibiotics may be recommended by your physician. The American Heart Association does not currently recommend pre-medication for simple heart murmurs.

2. New or replacement restorations (fillings).

Any time a tooth is drilled for a filling or crown, there is a chance of developing an abscessed tooth (even years later). This means the nerve and blood supply of the tooth dies (necroses).

3. Root Canals (endodontic treatment).

There are only two treatments for abscessed teeth: removal (extraction) of the tooth or a root canal (endodontic treatment). Root canal treatment DOES NOT restore a healthy blood supply to the tooth and may not be a permanent solution to the problem. Scientific research suggests that it is not wise for anyone over the age of 50 to have root canal treatment.

Depending on your personal health and immune system, it may be advisable to have root canal treated teeth removed if you are over age 50 or have been advised by your physician that your health may be compromised by root canal treated teeth.

There is increasing scientific evidence that anerobic bacterial infections from root canals may be linked to systemic disease including cancer.

Initial _____

4. Tapping Crowns.

Tapping crowns and replacing the original crown in order to remove amalgam and or decay is one of the best cost saving procedures we can perform. A hydraulic tool is used to remove the crown. There is always a risk of damaging the tooth or the crown requiring that a new crown be made at a higher cost. Also a tooth could possibly be so damaged that the tooth would have to be removed (extracted).

5. Tooth removal (extraction).

The extraction of teeth is definitely a surgical procedure. Pre-medication with antibiotics may be necessary for patients with heart conditions or recent joint surgery. While every effort will be made to remove the tooth with very little trauma or injury to the surrounding gum and bone, sometimes this is not possible. Sectioning or cutting the tooth into pieces may be necessary. In more difficult circumstances, it may be necessary to surgically remove gum tissue and or bone to remove the tooth. In this case, stitches (sutures) may be necessary.

Dry sockets (osteitis) are about a 10% possibility following any extraction. This means that a healthy clot does not form and the socket will be painful for a longer time while it heals. Smokers are significantly more prone to having "dry sockets" or longer healing time.

Dry sockets will usually heal and be pain free in 10-14 days. Routine extractions will usually be pain free in 1-3 days. Any extraction site will require at least 6-8 weeks to regenerate bone and heal enough for any other restorative procedures to be done.

The chance of nerve damage (paresthesia) is rare but possible in lower tooth extractions. The possibility of sinus exposure and complications exists but is rare in upper tooth extractions.

Initial _____

6. Cavitation (NICO Lesion) surgery.

NICO means "necrotizing inducing cavitational osteonecrosis". NICO lesions are rarely painful but may be. In every case, there is a hole (cavitation) in the bone which does not have a blood supply. This is the critical point. The same anerobic bacterial problems occur in root canal teeth because they also do not have a blood supply. Without a blood supply, bone cannot remain healthy and bacterial growth will occur. These anerobic (living without oxygen) bacteria give off toxins as waste products which are harmful.

Cavitation surgery has the same risk of nerve damage and sinus exposure as tooth extractions except that the risk of osteitis (dry socket) is extremely rare. Also rare but serious is the risk of post-operative bleeding.

Because in treating cavitations, surgery is being done in an already infected area, the risk of post-operative infection is a little higher.

Patients are always given prescriptions for antibiotics and instructions to take them if any fever develops following surgery.

Cavitation surgery is not 100% successful. Depending on your individual capacity to heal, second or third surgeries have been necessary to completely eliminate these chronic (longstanding) problems. Retreatments will be charged 50% of the original fee.

Tests are available to assess your "healing potential". These are evaluations of your blood's ability to clot. If you have clotting problems, pre-surgical treatment by a physician is recommended and will raise the probability of a good surgical outcome.

7. Injections (Local anesthetics).

Anytime you are given an injection of local anesthetic for any dental procedure, there is a minute risk of allergic reaction. There are also risks of temporary or permanent nerve damage and some small risk of precipitation of heart problems if you have any pre-existing heart conditions.

Initial _____

- 8. Please keep us advised and updated of your medical condition and all medications you are taking (including over the counter medications). It is rare that we will ask you not to take any of your medications unless you are taking anti-coagulants. We may wish to consult with your physician for your protection.**
- 9. If you are taking vitamin C, do not take it before your dental appointment. It will make your anesthetic (numbing) wear off too quickly.**
- 9b. If you have allergies and we have to "special order" anything we do not have in stock, you will be charged for stocking that product in addition to our normal fee.**
- 10. I understand that some recommended treatments are considered experimental and I have been made aware of the possibility of both complications and benefits of the procedures. Since treatment was authorized by my free will, I am free to withdraw from any further treatment at any time.**
- 11. I give my permission to take photographs of myself before, during and after treatment and to publish photographs and findings regarding the effectiveness of my treatment.**
- 12. I have read this informed consent and understand it. I am not a minor (under the age of 18). Patients under the age of 18 must have a parent or guardian signature. Additionally, I am here on this day and any subsequent visit, solely on my own behalf and not as an agent for any foreign or domestic federal, state or local agencies on a mission of entrapment or investigation.**

Print name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____