

CONSENT FOR DENTAL TREATMENT

FILLINGS

BENEFITS:

Eliminates decay. Relieves pain. Fills in a hole or space in a tooth. Covers eroded areas. Protects a sensitive surface.

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:

Tooth may abscess from the filling. Filling may fracture the tooth. Teeth sensitive to temperature change. Possible toxicity from silver fillings.

Filling may fall out.

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING IT:

Tooth may be lost. Tooth may fracture. Pain will get worse. Decay will get larger. Could cause the need for root canal work.

EXTRACTIONS

BENEFITS:

Last resort for an unsalvageable tooth. Eliminates pain. Removes teeth that are out of position. Eliminates 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. Infections may take a long time to clear up. Jaw may be stiff and difficult to open for a time. Jawbone may fracture if it is weak.

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING IT:

Spread of infection. Swelling. Pain.

ALTERNATIVES:

None.

X-RAYS

BENEFITS:

Contributes to a more complete diagnosis. Hidden problems may be discovered. Aids a better determination of proper treatment. Done only by qualified, trained personnel.

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:

Some exposure to X-ray radiation. X-rays remain the property of the dental office.

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING IT:

Dental services cannot be performed.

ALTERNATIVES:

None.

CLEANING AND SCALING

BENEFITS:

Teeth look nicer. Mouth is cleaner. Eliminates odors. Prevents gum disease.

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:

Teeth may be temporarily sensitive. Feeling of spaces between teeth. Filling may be loosened (normal is filling is weakened). Gums may be sensitive.

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING IT:

Stains on teeth. Odors. Gum disease. Teeth will be lost sooner.

ALTERNATIVES:

None.

BONDED FACING

BENEFITS:

Aesthetics (teeth look nice). Covers crooked teeth. Closes spaces and gaps. Covers discolored teeth.

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:

Edges can stain and need freshening (additional fee). Breakage can occur requiring a remake. Difficult to remove.

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING IT:

None (other than appearance).

ALTERNATIVES:

Crowns.

LOCAL ANESTHETICS

BENEFITS:

Avoids pain during treatments and procedures.

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:

Numbness may be prolonged. Nerve damage. Bruising (hematoma). In RARE instances, consequences may include all those applicable to General Anesthesia, including allergic reactions up to and including death (separate detailed information sheet is available on request).

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING IT:

Mild to severe pain during and after treatment.

ALTERNATIVES:

Willingness to accept pain during treatment.





CROWNS

BENEFITS:

Cosmetic (you will look nicer). Repairs a badly broken down tooth. Prevents tooth fractures. Restores a broken tooth. Eliminates food traps in tooth. Makes a solid structure to attach a bridge or partial denture. Splints loose teeth for added strength.

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:

Portion of crown may fracture. Crown may need recementing. Tooth may abscess and require further treatment. Future decay.

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING IT:

Tooth will probably fracture, need to be extracted, or require root canal therapy in addition to crown. Bridgework or dentures may be needed.

ALTERNATIVES:

Extraction. Temporary crown. Steel crown.

BRIDGEWORK

BENEFITS:

Cosmetic (you will look nicer). Replaces missing teeth. Missing teeth not removed for cleaning. Improves chewing efficiency.

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:

Same as for Crowns.

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING IT:

Teeth will drift and lean. Back teeth lost due to shifting. Gum disease. Reduced chewing efficiency.

ALTERNATIVES:

Partial dentures. Temporary partials. No teeth in spaces.

PARTIAL DENTURES

BENEFITS:

Lower cost.

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:

Wear on natural teeth. Visible metal clasps.

Decay under clasps. Movement or "looseness".

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING IT:

Same as described under Bridgework.

ALTERNATIVES:

Bridgework. Temporary partials. No teeth in spaces.

ROOT CANAL THERAPY

BENEFITS:

Eliminates infection. Relieves pain. Saves teeth.

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:

Root fracture and/or undiagnosable auxiliary canal can mean failure and extraction.

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING IT:

Extraction Bridgework.

GUM SURGERY (GINGIVECTOMY)

BENEFITS:

Eliminates infection. Reduces food pockets around teeth. Eliminates foul odors. Reduces overgrown tissues. Eliminates tartar.

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:

May need to be repeated. After treatment pain.

Teeth lost due to no response to treatment.

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING IT:

Teeth will be lost sooner. Infection may not completely clear up.

ALTERNATIVES:

More frequent than scaling treatments.

I have read the above statements and have received a copy of them. I recognize their importance in helping me to make decisions. I know that failures can occur for various reasons and that any procedure can result in complications. I also understand that, where decay has occurred or a tooth has fractured or abscessed, these same forces are still working on the tooth after it has been restored. Therefore, decay or fracture can still occur because the restored tooth is no better than what nature gave in the first place.

I hereby grant authority to the Dentist in charge to administer such anesthetics, analgesics, medications sedatives, diagnostic films, or to perform such procedures as may be deemed necessary or advisable in diagnosis and/or treatment. I understand that the use of an anesthetic agent entails certain risks. I also certify that the information I submitted in the Medical/Health History Form is true and complete.

In order to receive treatment, I contract that, in the event of any difference or disagreement between the attending Dentist and me, I will give the Dentist an opportunity 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 further to accept their resolution in lieu of pursuing remedies by way of litigation. I am aware that this will help 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.

X

Patient or Guardian

Date: