

INFORMED CONSENT FOR DENTAL TREATMENT

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FILLINGS

BENEFITS:

- Eliminates 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 silver fillings is alleged by some
- Filling may 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

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 tooth may be lodged in sinus, requiring more surgery
- Bad infections may take a 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

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 the dental office

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING THE WORK DONE OR POSTPONING:

- Can not perform dental services

ALTERNATIVES:

- None

CLEANING - SCALING

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 filling was ready to fall out)

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE

OR POSTPONING:

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

ALTERNATIVES:

- None

BONDED FACINGS

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 need for remake
- Difficult to remove

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE

OR POSTPONING:

- None (other than appearance)

ALTERNATIVES:

Crowns

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 to General Anesthesia, including allergic reactions up to and including death (more detailed information available on request)

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING 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 or fractured

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 a new crown

Because of initial damage tooth may

need root canal in future 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 crown

May need bridgework or dentures

ALTERNATIVES:

Extraction

Temporary crown

Stainless steel crown

BRIDGEWORK

BENEFITS:

Make you look nicer

To replace missing teeth

Some of same advantages as Crowns

Can improve chewing efficiency

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:

Same as Crowns

Bridge may become loose

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING THE 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

In rare cases, implants

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

In rare cases, implants

ROOT CANAL

BENEFITS:

- Eliminate infection
- Relieve pain
- Save the tooth

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:

- Tooth may darken (from previous injury)
- Postoperative pain and infection
- Undiagnosable root fracture means failure and extraction
- Undiagnosable auxiliary canal means failure and extraction
- Periodontal (gum) involvement may mean failure and extraction

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING:

- Extraction of tooth

ALTERNATIVES:

- Extraction
- Bridgework

GUM SURGERY

BENEFITS:

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

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:

- May need to be repeated after a time
- Some pain after procedure
- 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 appointments for scaling

BLEACHING

BENEFITS:

- Makes the tooth look lighter

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:

- Slight sensitivity of tooth after procedure
- May need to be repeated after a time due to darkening
- Irritation of gums from the bleach

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING:

- None

ALTERNATIVES:

- Crowns
- Bonded facings

DENTURES

BENEFITS:

- Replaces missing teeth
- Improves chewing
- Makes you look nicer

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:

- Dentures sometimes move while eating
- Denture may crack
- Teeth may come out of denture
- Sore areas
- Dentures may loosen over time requiring relines
- Plastic and/or teeth may stain over time
- Difficult to get used to

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING THE WORK DONE OR POSTPONING:

- Gum ridges will shrink
- Inefficient chewing of food
- Poor appearance

ALTERNATIVES:

- In rare cases, an implant

ORTHODONTIC APPLIANCES

BENEFITS:

- Makes you look nicer
- Improve oral hygiene

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:

- Loosening of teeth
- Tooth may not move into desired position
- Tooth may abscess form movement

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING:

- None

ALTERNATIVES:

- Bridgework
- Orthodontic specialist

I have read the preceding and I hereby authorize the doctor to perform any and all forms of treatment, medication, and therapy, that may be indicated in connection with my dental care and further authorize and consent that the doctor chooses and employs such assistance as he deems fit. I also understand that previous to treatment, full explanation of the procedure(s) involved will be given by the doctor and/or his staff. I agree to pay for all services rendered by this office.

Signature (Parent or guardian if minor)

Date