

INFORMED CONSENT FORM FOR DENTAL TREATMENT

ROBERTO V. ESPEJO, JR., D.D.S., INC.

3278 Noble Avenue, San Jose, CA 95132
Tel # (408)937-8333

990 Bay Street, Mountain View, CA 94040
Tel # (650)968-4000

FILLINGS

BENEFITS:

- Eliminate 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 change
- Toxicity from silver fillings is alleged by some
- Filling may fall out

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING

- May loose 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 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 complicated 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

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING

- Cannot 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
- Feelings of spaces between teeth
- Filling may be loosened (normal if filling was ready to fall out)
- Sensitive gums

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING

- Staining 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

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
- 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 of crown may fracture
- Crown may come off and need to be recemented
- Tooth may abcess 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/POSTPONING

- Tooth will probably fracture
- Tooth may need to be extracted
- May need a root canal in addition to the crown
- May need bridgework or dentures

ALTERNATIVES:

- Extraction
- Temporary crown
- Steel crown

BRIDGEWORK

BENEFITS:

- Make you look nicer
- Missing teeth are not removable
- Some of same advantages as Crowns
- Can improve chewing efficiency

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:

- Same as crowns

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE/POSTPONING

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

ALTERNATIVES

- Temporary partials
- No teeth in the spaces

PARTIALS (REMOVABLE BRIDGEWORK)

BENEFITS:

- Less expensive than bridge

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 to movement from the partial

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE/POSTPONING

- Same as under bridgework

ALTERNATIVES:

- Bridgework
- Temporary partial
- Keep spaces without tooth placement

ROOT CANAL

BENEFITS:

- Eliminate infection
- Relieve pain
- Save the tooth

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:

- Undiagnosed root fracture means failure and needs extraction
- Undiagnosed auxilliary canal means failure and needs extraction

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE/POSTPONING

- Extraction of tooth

ALTERNATIVES:

- Extraction
- Bridgework

GUM SURGERY (GINGIVECTOMY)

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 period of time
- Possible discomfort such as pain and bleeding
- Might lose teeth if they cannot respond to treatment

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE/POSTPONING

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

ALTERNATIVES

- More frequent appointments for scaling

I have read the above statements and have received a copy, and have recognized the importance in helping me make decisions. I understand that failures can occur for various reasons and that complications can arise in any procedure. I also understand that where decay has occurred or a tooth has fractured or abscessed, 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. In order to receive treatment, I agree 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 California State Consumer Affairs Board of Dental Examiners 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.

Name of Patient _____

Name of Guardian _____

Signature of Patient/Guardian (if minor) _____

Date _____