

HORIZON DENTAL GROUP

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INFORMED CONSENT FORM FOR DENTAL TREATMENT

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 deep filling
- Large fillings may fracture the tooth
- Tooth may be sensitive to temperature changes
- Toxicity from silver fillings is alleged by some
- Fillings 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

CLEANING – SCALING

BENEFITS:

- Look nicer
- Clean mouth
- Eliminate odors
- Prevents gum disease
- Some portions may be performed by auxiliary personnel

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:

- Sensitive tooth
- Feeling 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:

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

ALTERNATIVES:

- None

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

BONDED FACINGS

BENEFITS:

- Aesthetics – they look nice
- Cover crooked tooth
- Close spaces and gaps
- Cover discolored tooth

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:
 - 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

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

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING:

- Cannot perform dental services
- May not diagnose all needed work

ALTERNATIVES:

- None

CROWNS - CAPS

BENEFITS:

- Make you look nicer (cosmetic)
- 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 (filling to large to last)

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 due to deep decay)
- Future decay may require a filling or new crown

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 the crown
- May need bridgework or dentures

ALTERNATIVES:

- Extraction
- Temporary crown
- Steel crown

BRIDGEWORK

BENEFITS:

- Make you look nicer
- To replace missing tooth
- Missing teeth are not removable
- Some of same advantages as Crowns
- Can improve chewing efficiently
- Keep missing teeth from drifting

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:

- Same as Crowns

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING:

- Tooth will drift and lean over
- May lose back tooth due to shifting
- Periodontal problems (gum disease)
- Can reduce chewing efficiency

ALTERNATIVES:

- Partials
- Temporary partials
- No tooth in the spaces

IMMEDIATE DENTURES

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:

- Immediate Denture do require 2 soft relines
- Hard reline 6 to 8 months after surgery
- Full lower dentures if loose requires implants

PARTIALS (REMOVABLE BRIDGEWORK)

BENEFITS (less than fixed bridge):

- 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 tooth placement

ROOT CANAL

BENEFITS:

- Eliminate infection
- Relieve pain
- Save the tooth from extraction

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:

- Undiagnosable root fracture means failure and extractions
- Undiagnosable auxiliary canal means failure and extraction
- Infection

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING:

- Extraction of tooth
- Serious infection

ALTERNATIVES:

- Extraction
- Bridgework
- Partial Denture

GUM SURGERY (GINGIVECTOMY)

BENEFITS:

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

POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS:

- May need to be repeated after a time
- Some after pain
- Might lose tooth if they don't respond to treatment

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING WORK DONE OR POSTPONING:

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

ALTERNATIVES:

- More frequent appointments for scaling

NAME OF PATIENT _____

NAME OF GUARDIAN _____

I HAVE READ THE ABOVE STATEMENTS AND HAVE RECEIVED A COPY OF THEM, RECOGNIZE AND UNDERSTAND THEIR IMPORTANCE IN HELPING ME MAKE DECISIONS. I RECOGNIZE AND UNDERSTAND 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 ABSCESED, 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 CONTRACT THAT IF THERE IS ANY DIFFERENCES OR DISAGREEMENTS 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 OF 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.

SIGNATURE

DATE