



ELEVATE
dental wellness

Informed Consent Potential Risks and Limitations of Dental Treatment

As a rule, excellent dental results can be achieved with informed and cooperative patients. Dental treatment, like any treatment of the body, has some inherent risks and limitations. These risks and limitations usually do not contra-indicate treatment but should be considered prior to making the decision to receive dental treatment.

Perfection is our goal. However, in dealing with oral health many factors such as, diet, bacteria load, existing dental work, genetics, habits, and patient cooperation all factor into outcomes and achieving perfection is not always possible. Often a functionally and esthetically adequate result must be accepted. We do everything within our capacity to insure the best possible result.

Throughout life teeth are constantly changing. Periodic examinations should be made so any disease can be treated promptly. Frequent professional visits are the best insurance against serious dental disease. Tooth decay and gum disease can occur if patients do not brush and floss their teeth frequently, properly and thoroughly. Excellent oral hygiene and proper nutrition are a must.

On occasion the nerve of a tooth may die and become infected. A tooth that has been damaged by deep decay, trauma, or extensive dental treatment can die over a period of time. An undetected non-vital tooth may flare up during any dental treatment and may require endodontic (root canal) treatment to maintain it. It may even have to be removed.

There is also risk that during or following treatment, soreness or tenderness may occur in the temporomandibular joints (jaw joints).

The total time for treatment can be delayed beyond our estimate. Treatment plans can change due to altered conditions which may arise during treatment. Decay which may appear small on an x-ray, may be larger than anticipated resulting in much more extensive treatment.

Informed Consent

I understand that during treatment any of the above listed problems may occur. Additionally, other possible treatment complications include: pain (discomfort), tooth mobility, tooth decay, devitalization (nerve death), tooth and/or jaw changes, and possible injury resulting from the use of dental instruments and equipment.

I understand that treatment alternatives will be explained (including the consequences of no treatment) as well as the preferred method of treatment for my tooth/mouth. I understand that for a successful result and to lessen the chances of complication, the following conditions are essential on my part:

- Excellent oral hygiene
- Proper diet controls
- Strict adherence to instructions
- Cooperation in keeping appointments

I understand that there is no warranty or guarantee to my result and/or care. I also understand that I can, at any time, ask for and receive a full recital of all possible risks or complications related to my treatment.