

Chase M. BAKER, DDS

Informed Consent for Non-Surgical Endodontic Treatment

PATIENT NAME _____ DATE _____

TO THE PATIENT

You have the right, as a patient, to be informed about your condition and the recommended surgical, medical, or diagnostic procedure to be used so that you may make the decision whether or not to undergo the procedure after knowing the risks involved. Please ask about anything that you do not understand.

ABOUT THE TREATMENT

Root Canal treatment, also called endodontic treatment, involves relieving pain and discomfort by removing the nerve tissue (pulp) located in the hollow center of the tooth (pulp chamber) and its roots (root canal). Treatment involves opening through the biting surface of the tooth to gain access to the pulp, which is then removed. The inside of the chamber and canals are then cleaned and shaped. Medications may also be used to sterilize the interior of the tooth to prevent further infection.

Each prepared root canal is filled with a filling material and medicated cement. When necessary a post may be inserted into the canal to help hold the buildup in place. The opening in the tooth is then closed with a buildup. If a crown is required, it should be promptly placed to restore and protect the tooth.

Once the root canal treatment is completed, it is essential to return promptly to have restorative treatment completed. Because the buildup filling is not designed to take full function without a crown, failing to return as directed to have the tooth restored permanently with a crown could lead to the deterioration of the seal, resulting in leakage, decay, re-infection, gum disease, and the possible premature loss of the tooth.

BENEFITS AND ALTERNATIVES

Root canal treatment is intended to allow you to keep your tooth for a longer period, to maintain your natural bite, and to keep the healthy function of your jaws. Extracting your tooth is the primary alternative to root canal treatment. This alternative will require replacing the extracted tooth with a fixed bridge or a removable partial denture or an implant and crown.

RISK AND COMPLICATIONS

- 1) Twisted, curved, or blocked root canals may prevent removal of all inflamed or infected pulp. Since leaving any pulp in root canal may cause your symptoms to continue or worse, this might require an additional procedure called an apicoectomy. Through a small incision in the gums and surrounding bone, any remaining pulp is removed and the root end is smoothed and a filling placed to seal the end of the root. An apicoectomy may also be required if your symptoms continue and your tooth does not heal.
- 2) During and after treatment, you may experience bleeding, pain, swelling, or discomfort which may last for several days, which is treated with pain medication. You may also experience a rebound infection that would be treated with antibiotics.
- 3) To keep you comfortable during treatment you will receive a local anesthetic and possibly a sedative (tranquilizer). In rare instances patients may have an allergic reaction to the anesthetic, which may require emergency medical attention. Some patients find that the anesthetic reduces their ability to control swallowing, which increases the chance of swallowing foreign objects during treatment. Sedatives may temporarily make you drowsy or reduce your coordination.
- 4) Holding your mouth open during treatment may temporarily leave your jaw feeling stiff and sore and may make it difficult for you to open your mouth wide for several days afterwards. Treatment also may leave the corners of your mouth red or cracked for several days.

- 5) Occasionally a root canal instrument may separate in a root canal. Depending on its location, the fragment can be retrieved, or if not, it may be necessary to seat it in the canal with the filling materials (these instruments are made of sterile, no-toxic, surgical stainless steel, or titanium, so this causes no harm). It may also be necessary to perform an apicoectomy to seal the root canal.
- 6) As a result of filing and shaping the root canal, or the incomplete formation of the end of the root tip (apex), or an abscess at the apex, an opening can or may exist between the root canal and the bone and tissue. This opening can allow the filling materials to be forced out of the root canal into the surrounding bone and tissue. An apicoectomy may be necessary for retrieving the filling material (if not absorbed by the body) and re-sealing the root canal.
- 7) Teeth that receive root canal treatment may be more prone to cracking and breaking over several years of time, which may lead to premature extraction of the tooth and need for a implant, fixed bridge or partial denture. In some cases root canal treatment may not relieve all symptoms. The factors which effect this are; the patient's resistance to infection; the shape and location of the an undetected or and after the fact split (crack) in the tooth. These may lead to re-treatment; apicoectomy or extraction of the tooth.

PLEASE INITIAL EACH OF THE FOLLOWING:

X_____ I CONSENT TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF SUCH LOCAL ANESTHESIA AS DEEMED NECESSARY BY DR. CHASE M. BAKER TO ACCOMPLISH THE PROPOSED PROCEDURE.

X_____ I HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WITH DR. BAKER MY PAST MEDICAL AND HEALTH HISTORY INCLUDING ANY SERIOUS PROBLEMS OR INJURIES.

X_____ I AGREE TO COOPERATE COOMPLETELY WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF DR. BAKER WHILE I AM UNDER HIS CARE, REALIZING THAT ANY LACK OF THE SAME COULD RESULT IN LESS THAN OPTIMUM RESULT.

X_____ DUE TO INDIVIDUAL PATIENT DIFFERENCES THERE EXISTS A RISK OF FAILURE, RELAPSE, NEED FOR SELECTIVE RE-TREATMENT, OR WORSENING OF MY CONDITION WOULD OCCUR SOONER WITHOUT THE RECOMMENDED TREATMENT.

- o I GIVE CONSENT FOR THE TREATMENT AS DESCRIBED ABOVE
- o I REFUSE TO GIVE MY CONSENT FOR THE PROPOSED TREATMENT AS DESCRIBED ABOVE. I HAVE BEEN EXPLAINED AND UNDERSTAND THE POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF MY CHOICE.

X_____ PATIENT, PARENT, GUARDIAN

X_____ Chase M. Baker, D.D.S.

X_____ WITNESS

X_____ DATE

*MINOR ANY UNMARRIED MALE OR FEMALE THAT HAS NOT REACHED THEIR 18TH BIRTHDAY

*PATIENT IS TO INITIAL EACH PARAGRAPH AFTER READING