

## Treatment Plan Explanation & Informed Consent

DENTISTRY IS DIVIDED INTO THREE AREAS THAT NEED TO BE UNDERSTOOD

1. **Mandatory treatment** is necessary for physical health.
2. **Elective treatment** is available and encouraged but may not be necessarily needed in the short term for physical health.
3. **Informed consent** is important because it allows the patient to make decisions based upon their needs and desires.

### Steps to Informed Consent

#### 1) Treatment Alternatives

1. **Abscessed teeth options**
  - 1) Extraction
  - 2) Root canal therapy
  - 3) No treatment
2. **Fractured or broken teeth, fillings, & decay**
  - 1) Filling
  - 2) Crowning
  - 3) Extraction if not savable
  - 4) No treatment
3. **Missing teeth replacement**
  - 1) Removable partial denture
  - 2) Fixed or cemented bridges
  - 3) Implants and crowns
  - 4) No treatment
4. **Gingivitis and Periodontal disease (Gum & Bone Disease)**
  - 1) Periodontal Cleaning.
  - 2) Conservative treatment under local anesthesia, usually including medication and deep cleaning (Known as quad scales).
  - 3) Referral for periodontal treatment to a periodontist (specialist) in severe cases.

#### 2) Advantages of treatment options:

- 1) **Extractions:** Usually less expensive.
- 2) **Root Canal:** Saving of involved tooth.
- 3) **Filling:** Usually less expensive form of treatment.
- 4) **Crowning:** Restores tooth to greatest strength; closer to strength of natural tooth.
- 5) **Removable Partial:** Usually less expensive form of treatment.
- 6) **Fixed Bridge:** Cemented in place (does not have to be removed).
- 7) **Implant:** Single or multiple tooth replacement or denture stabilization.
- 8) **Periodontal Cleaning:** Most effective and economical way to control or prevent gum and bone disease and diagnose decay early to prevent tooth loss.
- 9) **Quad Scaling:** Deep periodontal cleanings usually with local anesthesia, allows conservative treatment along with medication to stop or reverse mild to moderate gum disease.
- 10) **Referral to specialist (Periodontist):** Aggressive advanced gum and bone disease treatment to save as many teeth as possible.

#### 3) Disadvantages of treatment options:

- 1) **Extraction:** Loss of tooth: leading to shifting of surrounding teeth and loss of chewing function.
- 2) **Root Canal:** Expensive, usually requires treatment by specialist. Tooth needs a crown for strength and may need extraction in the future.
- 3) **Filling:** Restores tooth but leaves tooth weakened due to decay damage. Cannot restore all large cavities due to weakness of filling material.
- 4) **Crowns:** Expensive, may require root canal in the future.
- 5) **Removable Partial:** Moves in mouth during eating. Must be removed to clean partial and surrounding natural teeth. Puts stress on anchor teeth possibly weakening and loosening anchor teeth causing loss

of teeth sooner than they would be lost otherwise.

- 6) **Fixed Bridge:** Expensive, necessary to crown surrounding teeth and causing additional stress and possibly eventual loss of anchor teeth, and anchor teeth may need root canals in the future.
- 7) **Implant:** Expensive, longer treatment time than other forms of tooth replacement.
- 8) **Periodontal Cleaning:** May not be adequate for all the deep tartar or calculus removal then deep cleaning/quad scaling is warranted.
- 9) **Quad Scaling (deep cleaning) :** May not stabilize gum disease thereby leading to necessity for further treatment by specialist.
- 10) **Referral:** Expensive, may not be able to save teeth in advanced cases.

4) **Risks** included (but not limited to) are complications resulting from the use of dental instruments, drugs, medicines, analgesics (pain killers), anesthetics and injections. These complications include: swelling; sensitivity; bleeding; pain; infection; numbness; and tingling sensation in the lip tongue, chin, gums, cheeks and teeth, which is transient but on infrequent occasions may be permanent; reaction to injections; changes in occlusion (biting); jaw muscle cramps and spasms; temporomandibular (jaw) joint difficulty; loosening of teeth; referred pain to ear, neck and head; nausea; vomiting; allergic reactions; delayed healing; sinus perforations and treatment failure. In addition, but rarely, medical emergencies that may require life saving procedures and/or admission to a designated hospital.

5) **Cost:** the cost of each form of treatment will be explained during the selection of treatment and option phase.

6) **Consequences** of doing nothing (no treatment) including but are not limited to pain, infection, swelling, loss of teeth and further deterioration of dental and possibly medical health, all of which can change future treatment options or plans.

#### DENTURES

Dentures are addressed as a separate issue because dentures are the last option in dentistry which is available to patients. They have no advantages over other treatment options except possibly expense. The disadvantages are numerous, because in all other dental treatment the option involves restorations which are anchored in bone. Dentures only sit on the soft tissue (gum) unless supported by implants in the mouth. Dentures are to be avoided whenever possible. There is no way to guarantee a successful outcome when dealing with dentures since they are the poorest option for replacing missing teeth. Often the patient's expectations are not achieved or not obtainable.

I certify that I have read and fully understand this consent for treatment or that this form has been read or explained to me and I fully understand this consent for treatment.

I certify that all my questions have been answered to my satisfaction.

I HEREBY GIVE MY INFORMED CONSENT FOR TREATMENT

Patient, Parent or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Witness \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_