

GENERAL OPTIONS & RISKS OF DENTAL TREATMENT

OPTIONS:

1. Because each dentist has different philosophies, levels of knowledge, levels of experience, and personal preferences, there could be different diagnoses and treatment plans for the same patient. All are valid and presented with the best of intentions, but may not be right for you or your current situation. If you are not comfortable with a treatment plan, ask for more options or get a second or third opinion.
2. Most dentists use the same standard materials for fillings, crowns, bridges, partial dentures, and full dentures, but be aware that other materials exist. They may not be as durable, cost effective, or easy to use, but nonetheless are available. It is your right to be advised of the options, and the dentist's responsibility to adequately inform you before you accept treatment.
3. Most dentists use essentially the same technique and procedures for fillings, crowns, bridges, partial dentures, full dentures, extractions, root canal treatment, orthodontics, periodontics, etc., but be aware that alternatives exist. These alternatives are often holistic in nature and may be less ideal from a number of viewpoints.
4. You must give consent before treatment can legally be rendered. Do not allow a practitioner to perform treatment you have not consented to.
5. You have the right to express concerns or ask questions during treatment. Do so when you are uncomfortable with the treatment or the person providing the treatment.
6. You have the right to refuse treatment and leave the office. Do so when you are uncomfortable with the recommended treatment or the person providing the treatment.

RISKS:

1. Any time tooth structure is cut away during a dental procedure (especially crowns or deep fillings), there is risk of irreversible damage to the pulp (nerve) of the tooth, resulting in the need for either a root canal filling or extraction.
2. Any time tooth structure is cut away during a dental procedure, there is risk of unexpected breakage of the tooth causing the procedure to be more extensive and therefore more costly than originally anticipated.
3. Any time local anesthetic ("novocaine") is used, there is a very small risk of nerve damage (usually temporary but sometimes permanent numbness), or adverse chemical reaction (may require medical intervention).
4. Any time dental care is rendered, there is a risk of damage to the soft tissues that surround the teeth from the dental instruments or materials. Request follow-up appointments as needed.
5. Any time restorative dental care is rendered, there is a risk of hot or cold or chewing sensitivity for 2-8 weeks, and on rare occasion, up to a year. Request follow-up adjustment appointments as needed.
6. Any time a surgical procedure is done, there could be unanticipated complications, such as prolonged bleeding, post-operative swelling and/or pain, and prolonged healing time. Request follow-up appointments as needed.
7. Not all dental treatments will be successful, through no fault of the dentist. For each treatment, ask what the chances of success are, and the life expectancy of the treatment so you can decide if it is worth the cost and effort.

I have read the above, have been offered printed educational handouts, offered other resources on dental treatment options, and accept the inherent and general risks of dental treatment **any time** I receive dental treatment. However, for all future treatment plans, I understand that I will be given all the specific options and advantages and disadvantages of each option, after which it is my responsibility to choose what, if any, treatment I receive.

Patient Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (if child): _____

Date: _____