

Information Concerning Your Treatment

GENERAL INFORMATION

Every medical or dental procedure carries some degree of risk, and orthodontics is no exception. Fortunately, most of the risks involved with undergoing orthodontic therapy don't even come close to canceling out the tremendous benefits that patients achieve by undergoing treatment. Please indicate to us that you are aware of the following possibilities associated with correcting your bite, straightening your teeth, and providing you with a beautiful smile, by initialing the paragraphs listed below.

CAVITIES AND DECALCIFICATIONS

Patient's/Parent's Initials _____

Braces don't cause cavities—poor oral hygiene does. Proper brushing will help reduce the likelihood of developing cavities or decalcifications (white scarring of the enamel around the outside edges of the braces). Finally, loose appliances can also lead to these problems, so report any breakages to your orthodontist. You must continue to see your regular dentist for checkups at least twice per year. Do not expect your visits with us to replace your regular dental examinations.

PERIODONTAL (GUM) DISEASE

Patient's/Parent's Initials _____

Some patients will experience various degrees of breakdown or loss of the bone and/or gums supporting their teeth. While some patients are more predisposed to this condition than others, most of the time it is due to poor oral hygiene. If you experience this problem, you may have to see your dentist or a periodontist for treatment three or four times per year. On rare occasions, your treatment may have to be interrupted or even discontinued if this condition cannot be effectively treated or controlled.

ROOT CANAL

Patient's/Parent's Initials _____

On very rare occasions, the nerve of a tooth may die during orthodontic therapy. This is almost always caused by trauma (even from years ago) to the affected tooth or a deep filling. If this occurs, a root-canal procedure to remove the dead nerve and save the tooth may be required.

ROOT RESORPTION

Patient's/Parent's Initials _____

It is very common for the roots of some of the teeth to shrink in size during orthodontic treatment. This root shrinkage even occurs in people who never wear braces. As long as your teeth and supporting structures are healthy, a small degree of root shrinkage does not matter to your overall dental health. However, as you grow older, if you develop periodontal disease as described above, the combination of the two might affect the longevity of your teeth. If this condition becomes severe (a rare occurrence), your treatment may have to be discontinued before it is completed.

TMJ DISEASE

Patient's/Parent's Initials _____

Your temporomandibular joint (TMJ) may become affected during orthodontic treatment. Clicking, locking, limitations of movement, and pain in the joint or facial muscles have all been reported to occur. This problem also occurs in people who have never undergone orthodontics—and as a matter of fact, orthodontic therapy is often recommended to help correct a TMJ problem. Usually this condition is temporary, disappearing after treatment is completed. If it persists, tell us. You may need to see other physicians to address this problem.

RELAPSE

Patient's/Parents Initials _____

Throughout life, all tissues in the body change with the aging process. Your teeth and supporting structures are no different. The retention phase of therapy can minimize the movement of your teeth after treatment is completed. Teeth can shift position for a number of reasons, such as excessive and/or unanticipated growth or uncorrected oral habits. Wearing your retainers as instructed can help maintain the results achieved.

INJURIES

Patient's/Parent's Initials _____

All orthodontic appliances have the potential to cause injuries. If they are properly used and worn, this is usually not a problem. Removable appliances may cause reactions to those allergic to acrylics. The braces themselves may affect those with nickel allergies, and ceramic braces have been associated with injuries to a tooth's enamel surface. The latex gloves we wear for your protection may affect those sensitive to latex. If you experience oral trauma, the braces themselves have been known to make some injuries worse—while at other times, they have actually prevented more serious injuries from occurring. Finally, headgears (night braces) and elastics (rubber bands) have been associated with eye injuries. There have also been reports of patients swallowing parts of their braces. Your braces are not toys; proper care and maintenance will minimize the possibility of any untoward occurrences.

POOR RESULTS

Patient's/Parent's Initials _____

Orthodontics, like every branch of medicine, carries no guarantees. Sometimes, despite our best efforts, the results achieved are less than anticipated; although they almost always result in significant improvement.

The most common reasons for achieving a less than ideal result are the following: the decision to treat a limited problem as opposed to the entire problem; underlying skeletal, anatomical, or periodontal limitations; treatment rendered by other doctors; delays in beginning treatment as recommended; and, most often, poor patient cooperation as far as not following treatment instructions and recommendations, not keeping appointments as scheduled, and chronically breaking, loosening, or losing the appliances.

NECESSARY SECONDARY TREATMENT

Patient's/Parent's Initials _____

Other treatment is often required in conjunction with your orthodontic therapy, such as

routine dental checkups, caps, extractions, gum treatments, and implants. You must ensure that these procedures are performed in a timely fashion. Also, any fee associated with these treatments is separate from the orthodontic fee charged.

DISCOMFORT

Patient's/Parent's Initials _____

As your teeth move, they may become slightly loose, and this may be uncomfortable. Patients usually get used to this within a short period of time, and once the braces are removed the teeth tighten up again. If you are having any pain, call us. Let us help. Also, your teeth may hurt for a day or two after an adjustment. This is normal, and simple over-the-counter painkillers will be helpful.

STOPPING THERAPY BEFORE COMPLETION

Patient's/Parent's Initials _____

The orthodontist/patient relationship needs to be respected by both parties. We will use our best efforts and judgment in exercising our skill, knowledge, and experience to provide you with a quality orthodontic result and experience. We will respect your confidentiality, your time, and your values. In return, we ask for your cooperation with regard to keeping scheduled appointments, following all instructions, and promptly paying for services rendered. We reserve the right to discontinue your treatment, even though treatment may not be completed, if problems of this nature persist without adequate resolution on your part.

PATIENT PRIVACY

Patient's/Parent's Initials _____

Like all health care providers, my orthodontist may have to consult with other health care professionals concerning my treatment. Permission is hereby granted to exchange medical and dental information about me/my child only as it relates to providing and paying for orthodontic treatment. In addition, I give permission for photos, x-rays, models, and clinically relevant data of me/my child to be used in scientific publications and/or presentations, and for no other purpose.

SUMMARY

Patient's/Parent's Initials _____

My orthodontic treatment has been thoroughly discussed with me. I have had the opportunity to ask questions about my proposed treatment, and I understand the potential benefits and risks as noted above.

I also understand that during treatment, circumstances may arise requiring either a discontinuation of or a change from the original treatment plan. If either of these occurs, it may result in adjustments to the cost of treatment. Lastly, I understand that the fee presented to me is only for orthodontic treatment, and if other dental treatment is necessary, there will be additional fees charged for those services.

The information noted above is solely so you, an informed consumer, can better appreciate that all medical treatment, including orthodontics, carries some small downside risks. Fortunately, these risks are minimal and can be easily dealt with, should they occur. The tremendous benefits associated with orthodontic therapy far outweigh

any potential negative occurrences associated with treatment. We encourage you to ask questions of us before, during, and after treatment so that you become one of our most important assets: a happy and informed orthodontic consumer.

Signature of Patient or
Parent if Patient is a minor

Date