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Informed Consent for Endodontic Treatment:

I understand that root canal treatment is a procedure to retain a natural tooth, which may otherwise require extraction. Although root canal therapy has a high degree of clinical success, there can be no guarantee of success because of the nature of the procedure and the various biological factors involved.

Before my root canal procedure, I have been informed of, and consent to, the following matters:

- A small percentage (typically 5 - 10%) of root canal procedures are not successful. If a procedure is not successful, the tooth may require re-treatment, periapical surgery, or extraction.
- During the procedure, it is possible that the “tip” of an instrument could separate and become permanently lodge in the root canal. Tip separation is infrequent, but if it does occur: (1) there may be no adverse consequences for the treated tooth, or (2) the root canal procedure may fail and result in tooth extraction. In nearly all cases of tip separation, there will be no adverse consequences to the treated tooth.
- During the procedure, it is possible that an instrument could perforate the wall of the root. Root wall perforation is infrequent, but if it does occur: (1) there may be no adverse consequences for the treated tooth, or (2) the root canal procedure may fail and result in tooth extraction.
- During the procedure, it is possible that other complications could arise which may: (1) decrease the likelihood of a successful procedure, or (2) require additional dental procedures or surgery. Other complications are infrequent.
- If the tooth to be treated already has a crown, it possible that the existing crown could be damaged during the procedure such that a new crown would be necessary after the endodontic procedure.
- Successful completion of a root canal procedure does not prevent future decay or fracture of the tooth.
- Root canal treatment weakens the natural crown of the tooth, because it is necessary to create an access opening through the crown to reach the root canals. I understand that I will need to return to my referring dentist for restoration of the treated tooth.
- In most cases, a temporary filling is placed in the tooth during root canal treatment therapy. You will need to return to your referring dentist to have a permanent filling or other restorative work completed. The nature of the required restorative work (such as a crown) depends on the clinical status of your tooth. You and your dentist will decide what is appropriate for your tooth.
- If you choose not to have root canal treatment, it is likely that your tooth will fail and require extraction. There are other potential consequences if you do not proceed with treatment when root canal therapy is indicated. You may experience bone loss/destruction as a result of an abscess surrounding the tooth, or you may increase your risk of systemic (affecting the whole body) infection if bacterial agents are present and not treated.

I was provided an opportunity to discuss my concerns and questions with the doctor before the procedure. All of my questions were answered and all of my concerns were addressed to my satisfaction. I understand each of the statements contained in this consent form.

Signature of Patient or Guardian

Date