

# Discussion and Informed Consent for Apicoectomy Treatment

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Diagnosis: \_\_\_\_\_

Treatment: \_\_\_\_\_

Apicoectomy is a form of root canal treatment or jaw surgery intended to promote preserving teeth that have been subjected to decay or trauma.

## *Patient's initials required*

\_\_\_\_\_ Twisted, curved, accessory or blocked canals may prevent removal of all inflamed or infected pulp/nerve during root canal treatment. Leaving any pulp/nerve in the root canal may cause your symptoms to continue or worsen, this might require an additional procedure called an **apicoectomy**. Through a small opening cut in the gums and surrounding bone, any infected tissue is removed and the root canal is sealed, which is referred to as a retrofilling procedure. An apicoectomy may also be required if your symptoms continue after root canal therapy and the tooth does not heal. In some cases, tissue is removed and may require a biopsy, at an additional cost.

## **Benefits of Apicoectomy, Not Limited to the Following:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Apicoectomy treatment is intended to help you keep your tooth, helping you to maintain your bite with natural teeth and the healthy functioning of your jaw. This treatment has been recommended to relieve the symptoms of the diagnosis described above.

## **Risks of Apicoectomy, Not Limited to the Following:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that following treatment I may experience temporary bruising of my face, bleeding, pain, swelling and discomfort for several days, which may be treated with pain medication. It is possible that infection may accompany treatment and may require treatment with antibiotics. Temporary or permanent numbness or painful nerve conditions of the mouth and face may occur. I will immediately contact the office if my condition worsens or if I experience fever, chills, sweats, numbness, sinus problems, severe pain or swelling.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that other complications such as sinus opening, infections and displacement of teeth or foreign bodies into the sinuses, tissues, spaces and cavities may occur requiring additional surgery at additional cost.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that because a portion of the root tip or end is removed, the root will be shorter. As a result, in some cases the tooth may become temporarily or permanently loose.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that there is a possibility of injury to an adjacent tooth or to roots of teeth during the procedure. If an adjacent tooth or roots of teeth are injured or otherwise damaged during the surgical procedure, conventional endodontic treatment, endodontic surgery or extraction may be required.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that recession of gums away from the crown exposing more tooth/root can occur. Crown margins or roots may become visible when smiling or talking. This may require an additional gum and/or bone surgery to correct this at additional cost.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that surgery to expose the root can require removal of surrounding bone to gain access. As a result, bone grafting may be required during the surgery, which may result in additional cost. This may also be necessary if infection has caused bone loss.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I may receive a local anesthetic (numbing agent) and/or other medication to assist in my comfort during treatment. In rare instances, patients may have a reaction to the local anesthetic, which may require emergency medical

attention, or in some cases patients find that it reduces their ability to control swallowing. This increases the chance of swallowing foreign objects during treatment. Depending on the anesthesia and medications administered, I may need a designated driver to take me home. Rarely, temporary or permanent nerve injury of the oral cavity or face can result from an injection.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that all medications have the potential for accompanying risks, side effects and drug interactions. Therefore, it is critical that I tell my dentist of all medications and supplements I am currently taking, which are: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that holding my mouth open during treatment may temporarily leave my jaw feeling stiff and sore and may make it difficult for me to open wide for several days; this is sometimes referred to as trismus. However, this can occasionally be an indication of a more significant condition or problem. In the event this occurs, I must notify this office if I experience persistent trismus or other similar concerns arise.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that apicoectomy treatment may not relieve all symptoms. The presence of gum disease can increase the chance of losing a tooth even though apicoectomy treatment was successful. If extraction of the tooth is required, a denture, bridge or implant treatment will be discussed as replacement options.

**Consequences if Apicoectomy Is Not Administered, Not Limited to the Following:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that if I do not have apicoectomy treatment, my discomfort may continue. I may face the risk of an infection that could develop into a serious, potentially life-threatening infection, abscesses in the tissue and bone surrounding my teeth and eventually the loss of my tooth and/or adjacent teeth.

**Alternative Treatments if Apicoectomy Is Not the Only Solution, Not Limited to the Following:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that depending on my diagnosis, alternatives to apicoectomy treatment may exist that involve other disciplines in dentistry. Extracting my tooth is the most common alternative to apicoectomy treatment, which may require replacing the extracted tooth with a removable or fixed bridge or an artificial tooth called an *implant*. As stated above, choosing not to treat the condition is an option with risks and consequences. Retreatment (redoing) the root canal may be an alternative. My dentist has discussed with me the alternatives and associated expenses. My questions have been answered to my satisfaction regarding the procedures, their risks, benefits and costs.

**Alternatives discussed:** \_\_\_\_\_

No guarantee or assurance has been given to me by anyone that the proposed treatment or surgery will cure or improve the condition(s) listed above.

**Check the boxes below that apply to you:**

**Consent**

- I have been informed both verbally and by the information provided on this form of the risks and benefits of the proposed treatment.
- I have been informed both verbally and by the information provided on this form of the material risks and benefits of alternative treatment and of electing not to treat my condition.
- I certify that I have read and understand the above information and that the explanations referred to are understood by me, that my questions have been answered and that the blanks requiring insertions or completion have been filled in. I authorize and direct Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ to do whatever he/she deems necessary and advisable under the circumstances.
- I consent to have the above-mentioned treatment.
- While the treatment may be covered by my medical and/or dental insurance, I accept any financial responsibility for this treatment and authorize treatment.

**or**

**Refusal**

- I refuse to give my consent for the proposed treatment(s) described above and understand the potential consequences associated with this refusal.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient or Patient's Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I attest that I have discussed the risks, benefits, consequences and alternatives of the above treatment with \_\_\_\_\_ (Patient or Patient's Representative) and they have had the opportunity to ask questions. I believe they understand what has been explained and consents or refuses treatment noted above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dentist Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date