

Discussion and Informed Consent for Extractions

Facts for Consideration

Patient's initials required

_____ An extraction involves removing one or more teeth. Depending on their condition, extraction may require sectioning of the teeth or trimming the gum or bone tissue. If any unexpected difficulties occur during treatment, I may refer you to an oral surgeon, who is a specialist in dental surgery.

_____ As in all surgical procedures, extractions are not without potential risk or complications. Since each person is unique and responds differently to surgery, the healing process may vary; no guarantees can be made.

_____ Extracted teeth that are not replaced may lead to other teeth moving or drifting, creating spaces between the remaining teeth and making it difficult or impossible to replace or straighten them later. If left for a significant period of time, this drifting of teeth may lead to a "malocclusion" (bite) in which top and bottom teeth do not "fit" together as the one did. Once the tooth is extracted, you will have a space that you may want to fill with a fixed or removable appliance. Replacement of missing teeth may be necessary to prevent the drifting of adjacent and/or opposing teeth to maintain function, or for cosmetic appearances.

Use of Local Anesthesia

_____ Anesthetizing agents (medications) are injected into a small area with the intent of numbing the area to receive dental treatment. They also can be injected near a nerve to act as a nerve block causing numbness to a larger area of the mouth beyond just the site of injection.

_____ Risks include but are not limited to: It is normal for the numbness to take time to wear off after treatment, usually four to six hours. This can vary depending on the type of medication used. However, in some cases, it can take longer, and in some rare cases, the numbness can be permanent if the nerve is injured. Infection, swelling, allergic reactions, discoloration, headache, tenderness at the needle site, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, and cheek, tongue, or lip biting can occur.

_____ Potential benefits: The patient remains awake and can respond to directions and questions. Pain is lessened or eliminated during the dental treatment.

_____ For ALL female patients: Because anesthetics, medications and drugs may be harmful to the unborn child and may cause birth defects or spontaneous abortion, every female must inform the provider if she could be or is pregnant. Anesthetics, medications and drugs may affect the behavior of a nursing baby. In either of these situations, the anesthesia and treatment may be postponed.

Benefits of Extraction, Not Limited to the following:

_____ The proposed treatment is intended to help relieve your symptoms and may also enable you to proceed with further proposed treatment.

Risks of Extraction, Not Limited to the Following:

_____ I understand that following treatment I may experience bleeding, pain, swelling, and discomfort for several days, which may be treated with pain medication. It is possible infection can follow an extraction and must be treated with antibiotics or additional procedures. I will contact the office immediately if symptoms persist or worsen.

_____ 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 I am currently taking and any medical conditions I have. I attest that my medical history is up to date and accurate so that my dentist may ensure my safety during the procedure.

_____ 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, 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 the office if I experience persistent trismus or other similar concerns arise.

_____ I understand that the necessary blood clot that forms in the socket may disintegrate or dislodge and may result in an infection of the bone of the socket walls. This painful condition, called a dry socket, lasts a week or more and is treated by placing a medicated dressing in the tooth socket to aid healing. To protect against developing dry socket I must not smoke after the procedure. Smoking may adversely affect the extraction site healing leading to a higher incidence of a dry socket. I will also avoid drinking through a straw, rinsing with water or mouthwash, chewing food in that area, or disturb the socket in any way for 24 to 48 hours.

_____ I understand that the instruments used in extracting a tooth may unavoidably chip or damage adjacent teeth, which could require further treatment to restore their appearance or function.

_____ I understand that upper teeth have roots that may extend close to the sinuses. Removing these teeth may temporarily leave a small opening into the sinuses. Antibiotics and additional treatment may be needed to prevent a sinus infection and help this opening close. If such a complication occurs you may require additional treatment by a physician or oral surgeon.

_____ I understand that the nerves that control sensations in my teeth, gums, tongue, lips and chin run through my jaw. Depending on the tooth to be extracted (particularly lower teeth or third molars), occasionally it may be impossible to avoid touching, moving, stretching, bruising, cutting or severing a nerve. This could change the normal sensations in any of these areas, causing itching, tingling or burning, or loss of all sensation including numbness of the chin, cheeks, lips, gums, or tongue, including loss of taste. These changes could last from several weeks to several months or in some cases, indefinitely.

_____ I understand that an extraction may cause a fracture in the surrounding bone. Occasionally, the tooth to be extracted may be fused to the surrounding bone. In both situations, additional treatment is necessary. Bone fragments called "spicules" may arise at the site following extraction and are generally easily removed.

_____ I understand that tooth fragments may be left in the extraction site following treatment due to the condition and position of the tooth/teeth. Generally, this causes no problems, but on rare occasions the fragments become infected and must be removed.

Alternative Treatments if Extraction is Not the Only Solution, Not Limited to the Following:

_____ I understand that depending on my diagnosis, alternatives to extraction may exist which involve other disciplines in dentistry. I asked my dentist about them and their possible associated costs. My questions have been answered to my satisfaction regarding the procedures and 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 conditions listed above.

Initial only one of the spaces below that applies to you:

_____ I have had my questions answered to my satisfaction. I consent to have Dr. Mark Poitras perform the treatment as discussed. I authorize and direct this dentist, with his associates, to do whatever they deem necessary and advisable under the circumstances.

Or

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

Patients Signature (or Patient's Representative) Date

Patients Signature (or Patient's Representative) Date

Patients Signature (or Patient's Representative) Date

Patients Signature (or Patient's Representative) Date