

Ravenel, Hudgens and Trouche
Dental Treatment Consent Form

In an effort to provide you with the best dental care possible, the patient must understand that there are certain potential risks that can occur in the delivery of your dental services. This consent form is designed to make sure you are informed of some of these risks before beginning your treatment. Please initial each section after you have read and agreed to proceed with your treatment, then sign and date the form at the bottom. Should you have any questions, please feel free to ask a member of the office staff. Not all of the issues may apply to the care you receive as a patient in our office.

1. X-rays. Dental x-rays used in this office are performed using only a fraction of the radiation they did 20 years ago. We do need to take annual x-rays to properly evaluate your dentition and additional films when treating emergencies or evaluating individual teeth. They are necessary for accurate diagnoses, especially when evaluating between teeth and assessing infections. As a patient you may wish to decline having x-rays taken, but be advised that in that event a serious cavity, infection or periodontal bone loss may not be detected and therefore we hold no liability for its complications. We will make every attempt to keep your exposure to radiation to a minimum.

(initials)
2. Medications and Local Anesthetics. In this office, we do use local anesthetics, nitrous oxide, some antibiotics and sedatives. It is very important that your medical information is current to avoid any adverse or allergic reactions. With the use of local anesthetics, patients experience an effect for 2-3 hours; however, prolong numbness or paresthasias can occur that could last for a much longer period of time. These complications are usually rare and almost always resolve over a period of time. It is important that we know if you are taking aspirin, Coumadin and any medication for osteoporosis, as they may affect your treatment outcome.

(initials)
3. Fillings. Removing decay from a tooth and placement of a new filling (restoration), can lead to some sensitivity. This sensitivity can be affected by chewing as well as hot and cold substances. We make every effort to minimize the occurrence of sensitivity with bases, fluorides and desensitizers, but in some cases sensitivity can persist, especially when enamel "cracks" or hairline fractures are present.

(initials)
4. Crowns, Bridges and Fixed Prosthetic Appliances. We make every attempt to achieve the best functional and cosmetic outcome with all your dental treatment; however, sometimes it may be impossible to perfectly match your natural teeth or existing restorative work. With crowns and other prosthetic restorations sensitivity can be an issue as well. Refer to the information listed in Section 3 above. Temporary and permanent crowns can become loose and cements can weaken over time making it possible for a crown to come off. Please make every effort to schedule an appointment to recement your prosthesis as soon as possible. After a few days teeth may shift making it impossible to fit the tooth for which the crown was made. Maintaining regular hygiene visits to our office as determined by you, the hygienist and the doctor are essential to minimize decay and failure of your prosthetic crowns, as well as your bridges and fillings. Patients that are noncompliant with hygiene visits and their home care are much more likely to jeopardize the longevity of their restorative dental work.

(initials)
5. Periodontal Disease and Bone Loss. Regular hygiene visits are critical to maintain good dental health. Good habits with your home care (brushing and flossing) are also essential to a healthy mouth. Gingivitis and bone loss occur with inconsistent dental care and maintenance. These situations may require a referral to the Periodontist for advanced treatment. As a patient you may decline our suggestion to see a specialist, and that is your choice. In these situations, we will be pleased to continue seeing you for hygiene services with the understanding that your periodontal condition will most likely worsen over the time. Our office is only able to offer non-surgical periodontal care, and that may not be enough for your specific needs.

(initials)
6. Separate consent forms will be given when root canals, surgical procedures and extractions are planned.

I understand that dentistry is not an exact science and therefore desirable results cannot always be guaranteed. We will continue to make every effort to achieve the result you desire. By signing this document, I state that I have been properly informed of some complications that I may encounter while receiving dental care.

Print Name

Signature

Date