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CONSENT FOR ENDODONTIC (ROOT CANAL) TREATMENT

PATIENT NAME _____
TOOTH NUMBER _____

1. **Success Rate.** Root Canal Treatment (endodontic therapy) is about 95% successful, depending on your general health, condition of the nerve and the root canal(s), bone support around the tooth, and strength of the tooth (fracture lines). Possible complications of endodontic treatment which may prevent successful treatment are: separation of instruments, perforations (accidental openings) of the crown or root of the tooth, identification of crown or root fracture during or after treatment, root canal filling material which extends beyond the end or the root, blocked root canals, and damage to existing crowns, bridges, or other appliances.

2. **Completion of Treatment.** Root Canals are sometimes completed in a single appointment or may take several appointments. Between treatments you will have a temporary filling placed on the tooth to protect the canal. If the filling should come out, please call the office so we can replace it. Once treatment is begun, it is absolutely necessary that the treatment be completed, and you must diligently follow any and all instructions.

3. **Sensitivity.** The tooth may normally be sensitive following appointments and even remain tender for a time after treatment is completed. Often patients will notice post-operative pain, swelling, and /or infection. If sensitivity persists, please let Dr. Lee know.

4. **Causes of Fracture.** Root canal teeth no longer have a blood supply to them and become more brittle than your other teeth. Fractures are one of the main reasons why root canals fail. A fractured tooth sometimes requires extraction of the tooth. One of the best ways to prevent fracture of a root canal tooth is to have a crown put over the tooth to strengthen it. Other causes of fracture include grinding of teeth, improper bite, trauma, etc. These fractures can occur either before or after the root canal and often are invisible and/or hard to detect.

5. **Proper Care.** Teeth treated with root canals can still decay, but since the nerve is gone, there will be no pain. As with other teeth, the proper care of these teeth consists of good home care, a sensible diet, and periodic dental checkups.

6. **Additional Treatment.** Additional treatment may be necessary. Occasionally, root canal treatment alone does not complete the treatment. The canals of the tooth can be very narrow or curved or calcified. There may be infection around the roots of the tooth. Instruments used to treat the tooth may become separated in the canal. The tooth may remain or become sensitive. A surgical procedure or possibly extraction may be necessary to try to resolve the problem.

7. The **benefits** of successful root canal treatment include the relief of pain and the ability to retain the tooth in comfort and function. Treatment **alternatives** include:

_____ No treatment _____ Extractions

I understand that during treatment, complications may arise which complicate or make treatment more difficult, or which may require additional dental surgery. I understand that root canal treatment weakens the crown of the tooth. The dentist has explained to me the need for a restoration which adequately protects the tooth after root canal treatment has been completed. I understand that dentistry is not an exact science and no guarantee of success has been or can be given. All of my questions have been answered by the dentist and I fully understand all the above statements contained in this consent form.

Signature of Patient/Parent/Legal Guardian Date

Signature of Dentist Date

Signature of Assistant Date