



## **Consent for Periodontal Treatment (non-surgical)**

### **About the proposed treatment**

Non-surgical periodontal treatment involves thoroughly cleaning your tooth in the office to help heal inflamed or infected gum tissue. Treatment involves removing the bacterial substance known as plaque and harder mineral deposits called calculus from tooth surfaces above and below the gumline (this is called scaling). It may involve smoothing the roots of your teeth (called root planing).

Your condition will be monitored through regular examinations of your teeth, gums and measurement of the pockets that have formed in the gums surrounding your teeth. Dental x-rays will be taken to check the condition of the roots of your teeth and the bone that supports your teeth. You may also receive medications or a special mouthrinse to help control the growth of bacteria that accumulate around your teeth and cause inflammation and infection of gum tissues.

You will also be taught the proper methods for caring for your teeth at home. The success of this treatment depends in part on your efforts to brush and floss daily, receive regular cleanings as directed, follow a healthy diet, avoid tobacco products and follow other recommendations.

### **Benefits and alternatives**

Regular professional cleanings help to create a clean environment in which your gums can heal. They also reduce the chances of further irritation and infection by making it easier for you to keep your teeth clean. Depending on the success of these treatments, surgical methods may also be prescribed to help control gum disease.

Depending on the seriousness of your current condition, existing medical problems or medications you may be taking, these methods alone may not completely reverse the effects of gum disease or prevent further problems in the future.

### **Common risks**

1. **Bleeding, swelling, soreness and infection:** During and shortly after treatment, your gums may bleed, swell or feel sore, which may be treated with pain medication. Because cleanings involve contact with bacteria and infected tissue in your mouth, you may also experience an infection, which would be treated with antibiotics.
2. **Reaction to anesthesia:** To keep you more comfortable during treatment you may receive a local anesthetic. In rare instances patients have an allergic reaction to the anesthetic, which may require emergency medical attention.
3. **Hot and cold sensitivity:** As your gum tissues heal, they may shrink somewhat, exposing some of the root surface. This could make your teeth more sensitive to hot and cold.



4. Stiff or sore jaw joint: holding your mouth open during treatment may temporarily leave your jaw feeling stiff, sore and make also leave the corners of your mouth red for several days.

**Consequences of not performing treatment**

This course of treatment will help to improve your condition and prevent this disease from spreading. If you received no treatment or treatment that was discontinued, your condition would continue and probably worsen. This could lead to further inflammation and infection of gum tissues, tooth decay above and below the gumline, deterioration of bone surrounding the tooth and eventually the loss of tooth.

Every reasonable effort will be made to ensure that your condition is treated properly, although it is not possible to guarantee perfect results. By signing below, you acknowledge that you have received adequate information about the proposed treatment, that you understand this information and that all of your questions have been answered fully.

- I give my consent for the proposed treatment as described above.
- I refuse to give my consent for the proposed treatment as described above. I have been informed of the potential consequences of my decision to refuse treatment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patients Signature or Parent of Minor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness