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## CONSENT FOR PERIODONTAL SURGERY

Periodontal surgery eliminates the infected gum tissue from around your teeth. Pockets are reduced or eliminated to provide a healthy environment. This facilitates the control of bacteria in your mouth by creating a tighter shallower seal around your teeth. Long term success is very high when you practice the required good plaque control and have regular professional maintenance.

There are non-surgical alternatives to treating the periodontal diseases such as subgingival curettage with or without laser. Other alternatives include scaling followed by regular periodontal maintenance, regular periodontal maintenance only and no treatment. The consequences of not treating the periodontal disease may be loss of many or perhaps all of your teeth. Because of individual patient differences, heredity, systemic conditions and variations in personal plaque control, it is not possible to guarantee the effectiveness of any periodontal treatment and some teeth may continue to have a questionable outlook.

When we eliminate the places where the bacteria grow, there are some possible side effects which we want you to know about.

- A. More of your teeth will be showing once the diseased gum tissue has been removed. I will attempt to minimize the amount of exposure as much as possible, especially on the front teeth, where it is more easily visible. The spaces between the back teeth will be larger and some food retention may occur, especially under bridges. This debris and bacteria were being trapped in pockets. These pockets are being reduced so that you can more easily remove this bacteria and debris from their former hiding places.
- B. It's normal to have some increased sensitivity to hot and cold once the diseased, swollen tissue is gone. This sensitivity usually does not persist when teeth are kept very clean and acidic foods are avoided. If sensitivity does persist, there are some desensitizing solutions we can use to help eliminate that sensitivity. Rarely, the sensitivity does persist and a restoration or crown might be necessary to protect the sensitive area. It is also normal to have some increased looseness of the teeth. They will almost always tighten back up.
- C. If you have crowns, the edges may show this can be a problem esthetically on porcelain and gold crowns since a dark line will show. Occasionally crowns will have slightly defective margins or beginning decay on their edges. When exposed, the sensitivity can be persistent and may necessitate the crowns being redone. This is a problem that is revealed by the surgery rather than created. When esthetics or sensitivity is not a problem, the crowns are actually better since the gum tissue and tooth are easier to clean and therefore healthier.
- D. When the gum problems are severe behind the upper front teeth, there can be some slight speech changes. There can be slight lisp on "s" and "ch" sounds. It has been my experience that the tongue adapts to these changes and the speech changes disappear in several weeks

The surgery is done with a local anesthetic. For additional comfort, intravenous and/or oral sedation is often used. There is no discomfort during the surgery and afterward most of our patients report moderate discomfort of a few days duration. The prescribed medications usually control these nicely. Occasionally discomfort is greater and does last longer. This is due to variations in healing response and occasionally to infection. Additional medications can be prescribed to control this. Very rarely, paresthesia (prolonged numbness) may occur.

A periodontal bandage is sometimes placed for your comfort. The bandage will usually fall off on its own or will be removed in approximately 21 days if needed. The suture which we use will usually dissolve before your next appointment

We understand your concerns about periodontal surgery and will do everything we can to make you as comfortable as possible. We don't want to mislead you, periodontal surgery can be inconvenient but we have found that virtually all of our patients agree afterward that the benefits of keeping their teeth far outweigh the temporary inconvenience involved. Please let us know if you are very apprehensive and would like a prescription for something to help you relax the night before the surgery or have any special questions or concerns. The temporary discomfort of periodontal surgery is easily offset by the benefits and peace of mind that comes from having retained your natural smile, comfortable chewing, pleasant breath and overall body wellness achieved from a healthy mouth that is free of bacterial infection. It's an investment that continues to appreciate throughout your lifetime.

Please sign in the space provided confirming that you have read this entire page and understand the benefits and possible side effects of periodontal surgery and consent to these procedures.

Patient's Name(or Legal Guardian's)

Signature

Date

Reviewer