

## Orthodontic Treatment Consent

While recognizing the benefits of a pleasing smile and healthy teeth, you should also be aware that orthodontic treatment, like any treatment of the body, has some inherent risks and limitations. These are seldom enough to contraindicate treatment but should be considered in making the decision to wear orthodontic appliances.

Decalcification (permanent markings), decay, or gum disease can occur if patients do not brush their teeth properly and thoroughly during the treatment period. Excellent oral hygiene and plaque removal is a must. Regular dental visits should be maintained.

Teeth have a tendency to rebound to their original position after orthodontic treatment. This is called relapse. The most common area for relapse is the lower front teeth. After removal of the braces, retainers are placed to minimize relapse. Full cooperation in wearing these appliances is vital. We will make our correction to the highest standards and in some cases overcorrect in order to accommodate the rebound tendencies . When retention is discontinued some relapse is still possible.

A non-vital or dead tooth is a possibility. A tooth that has been traumatized can die over a long period of time with or without orthodontic treatment. An undetected non-vital tooth may flare up during orthodontic movement, requiring endodontic (root canal) treatment to maintain it. Under healthy circumstances the shortened roots are no disadvantage. However, in the event of gum disease in later life the root resorption could reduce the longevity of affected teeth.

There is also a risk that problems may occur in the temporomandibular joints. Tooth alignment or bite correction can improve tooth-related causes of TMJ pain but not in all cases. Tension appears to play a role in the frequency and severity of joint pains.

Occasionally a person who has grown normally and in average proportions may not continue to do so. If growth becomes disproportionate, the jaw relation can be affected and original treatment objectives may have to be compromised. Skeletal growth disharmony is a biological process beyond the orthodontist's control.

The total time for treatment can be delayed beyond our estimate. Lack of facial growth, lack of cooperation/elastic wear, broken appliances and missed appointments are factors which could lengthen treatment time and affect the quality of the result.

I have read and reviewed the above discussion of the potential risks of orthodontic treatment. If I did not understand any of the risks described, I will discuss my questions with the doctor prior to beginning orthodontic treatment.

**Patient Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dr.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Witness** \_\_\_\_\_