

INFORMED CONSENT (occlusal procedures)

Patient's name _____ Date _____

Occlusal Procedures (Bite Stabilization)

An uneven and unstable bite can make it difficult to accomplish restorative dental procedures without risking injury or harm to the teeth, joints, muscles, and bone.

An uneven bite may be due to (i) orthodontic problems, (ii) uneven wear of teeth and/or dental restorations, (iii) habitual clenching or grinding of teeth, (iv) unprotected nighttime clenching or grinding, (v) injury, or (vi) dental restoration which are uneven or poorly aligned. Whatever the cause, an unstable bite must often be corrected before the process of dental restoration can be completed. Where the discrepancies are small and obvious, this can usually be accomplished by selectively removing high spots on the offending teeth. Where the problem is more pronounced, more complex equilibration procedures may be necessary. In cases where the discrepancies are pronounced, complex dental restorative procedures to replace badly worn or misaligned teeth may be indicated. After the bite is corrected, it may be appropriate to use a protective mouthguard to prevent progression or recurrence of the problem.

INSURED PATIENTS should note that many insurance companies (particularly HMO type plans) do not cover bite stabilization procedures. Other insurance companies will cover some, but not all of these types of procedures.

Benefits, alternatives, and common risks

Only with a correct and stable bite can your dental restorations be properly completed. While many people find that muscle tension, headaches, dental sensitivity, and other complaints either improve or resolve completely after occlusal stabilization, but it is important to understand that these results are not predictable and are not the intended outcome of the procedures. The risks of the procedures are relative to the severity of the problem. Simple corrections present little risk, complex equilibration or occlusal rehabilitation carry higher degrees of risk. Rarely, the process of correction can cause occlusal related symptoms (as described above) to appear or to worsen.

Consequences of not performing these procedures

Inadequate correction of bite discrepancies can lead to damage and harm to the teeth, joints, muscles, and jaws. Over time, the harm done can become irreversible. In addition, any dental restoration placed without prior stabilization of the bite may cause unnecessary pain, sensitivity, or harm to the teeth, including cracking and bruising due to biting trauma.

Every reasonable effort will be made to ensure that your occlusal procedure is completed properly, although it is not possible to guarantee perfect results. By signing below, you acknowledge that you have received adequate information about the proposed occlusal procedures, that you understand this information, and that all of your questions have been answered fully. You also give permission for information gained from your treatment to be used in clinical and economic research, practice marketing, and patient education activities and materials, provided that your identity is not reasonably discernible.

___ I give my consent for the proposed occlusal procedures as described above.

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

Patient's signature / Date

Staff signature / Date

