

INFORMED CONSENT (for periodontal therapy)

Patient's name _____ Date _____

Non-Surgical Periodontal Therapy Programs

The various treatment programs offered in our practice are tailored to the level of periodontal (gum) disease as found in your mouth. Treatment programs include scaling which uses ultrasonic and hand instruments to remove calculus, plaque, and bacteria; curettage which scrapes any necrotic (dead) tissue and cleans the area or pocket, and root planing which smooths and contours the root surface to remove the debris and cementum found in the periodontal pocket. Medications or a special mouth rinse to help control the growth of bacteria may be part of treatment. A topical or local anesthetic may be administered depending on the sensitivity of the area to be treated.

The success of the treatment depends in part on your efforts to brush and floss (or as directed) daily, receive regular cleaning as directed, follow a healthy diet, avoid tobacco products and follow proper home care taught to you by this office. Success further depends on your continuation in the prescribed program as advised.

Benefits: Regular, professional periodontal disease therapy (i) create a clean environment in which your gums can heal; (ii) reduce the chances of further irritation and infection; (iii) make it easier for you to keep your teeth clean; and (iv) decrease the likelihood of losing teeth lost due to gum disease.

Risks: Your gums may bleed or swell and you may experience moderate discomfort for several hours after the anesthesia wears off. There may be slight soreness for a few days which may be treated with pain medication. You should notify the office if conditions persist beyond a few days.

Rarely, treatment may cause an infection of the treated tissue in your mouth, which would be treated with antibiotics.

These methods alone may not completely reverse the effects of gum disease or prevent further problems.

Consequences If No Treatment Is Administered or if Program is not Completed: If no treatment were administered or ongoing treatment were interrupted or discontinued, your periodontal 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 teeth.

Alternatives to Non-surgical Periodontal Treatment: Surgical methods may also be prescribed to help control your gum disease, but scaling and root planing, followed with appropriate evaluation, is a less invasive procedure and thus preferred as initial therapy.

Every reasonable effort will be made to ensure that your scaling and root planing treatment 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 periodontic procedures, that you understand this information, and that all of your questions have been answered fully. You also give permission for information and photographs 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 scaling and root planing procedures as described above.

___ I refuse to give my consent for the proposed scaling and root planing procedures as described above. I have been informed of the potential consequences of my decision to refuse this treatment.

Patient's signature / Date

Staff signature / Date