



## **INFORMED CONSENT FOR NON-SURGICAL PERIODONTAL TREATMENT**

If your Dentist has made a diagnosis that you have periodontal disease and has made a recommendation that you require periodontal treatment, this document is designed to outline this treatment, its risks, expected outcomes, alternatives and your responsibilities.

You may have been informed that there are dentists who are specialists within this field (periodontologists) and you may have been advised and offered to be referred to such a dentist to receive optimal treatment. Please be aware that you can change your mind at any point and request to be referred to a specialist periodontologist.

To help meet the demands of treatment we have made a treatment plan for you to be considered. Please read the following and ask if anything is unclear.

Dental x-rays will be taken to check the condition of the bone that supports your teeth. A thorough examination of your oral cavity will be done measuring the pockets under the gums surrounding your teeth to determine which periodontal treatment(s) your gum condition requires.

Treatment involves removing the bacterial substance known as plaque, which is the principal cause of periodontal disease and calculus, which is an accumulation of hard deposits on the tooth above or below the gingival margin.

The treatment involves scaling, which uses 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.

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

A topical or local anesthetic may be administered depending on the sensitivity of the area to be treated.

### **Benefits of Non-Surgical Periodontal Treatment, Not Limited to the Following:**

You must be aware that this treatment is not a cure as currently there is no cure for periodontal disease. This is a treatment in which we aim to, through regular professional cleanings, medicine, oral hygiene education and information-

create a clean environment in which your gums can heal

reduce the chances of further irritation and infection

make it easier for you to keep your teeth clean and decrease the risk of losing teeth due to gum disease.

Please note that your initial treatment needs to be followed by regular visits to your dentist and hygienist. The interval of your visits will be decided at the end of the treatment depending on your compliance and respond to the treatment.

**Risks of Non-Surgical Periodontal Treatment, Not Limited to the Following:**

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

Because cleaning involves contact with bacteria and infected tissue in your mouth, you may also experience an infection, which may be treated with antibiotics.

Holding your mouth open during treatment may temporarily leave my jaw feeling stiff and sore and may make it difficult for me to open wide for several days afterwards. However, this can occasionally be an indication of a further problem. I must notify the practice if this or other concerns arise.

As your gum tissues heal, they may shrink somewhat, exposing some of the root surface. This could make my teeth more sensitive to hot or cold. Additional surgical procedures are available to protect the exposed areas and you may need to be referred to a specialist for this..

Depending on your current dental 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.

You may receive a topical or local anesthetic and/or other medication. All medications have the potential for accompanying risks, side effects, and drug interactions. Therefore, it is critical that you tell your dentist of all medications you are currently taking or any possible allergy to local anaesthetics, medicines or other materials.

Every reasonable effort will be made to ensure that your condition is treated properly, although it is not possible to guarantee a perfect results.

**Consequences If No Treatment Is Administered, Not Limited to the Following:**

If no treatment were administered or ongoing treatment was 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 possible loss of teeth.

**Alternatives to Non-surgical Periodontal Treatment, Not Limited to the Following:**

Surgical methods may also be prescribed to help control you gum disease.

No guarantee can be given that the proposed treatment or surgery will cure or improve the condition(s) listed above permanently.

**What are the risks and complications of a local anaesthetic during a dental procedure?**

This procedure will require a local anaesthetic.

Reactions, either mild or severe, may possibly occur from anesthetics or other medications administered or prescribed. All prescription drugs must be taken according to instructions. Women using oral contraceptives must be aware that antibiotics can render these contraceptives ineffective. Other methods of contraception must be utilized during the treatment period.