

Explanation & Consent to Periodontal Treatment

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What is it?

Periodontal (gum) disease is caused by plaque, a colourless film of bacteria that forms on the teeth. Plaque forms acid and irritates the gums, causing them to become red, tender, and swollen. Eventually, the tissue that attached the gum to the teeth and jaw supporting the teeth may be destroyed. Periodontal disease is usually a slow, painless, and progressive disease.

Treatment

The type of treatment you require depends on how advanced your particular case is. Individualized treatment may include any of the following:

- **Scaling** is the removal of calculus deposits from your teeth. Root planing is the smoothing of the root surfaces so that the gum tissue can reattach to the tooth.
- **Curettage** removes the infected soft tissue lining in the periodontal pockets.
- **Gingivectomy** is the surgical removal of the infected tissue within the periodontal pockets when gum disease does not involve the jawbone.
- **Soft tissue grafts** are added to reinforce thin gums or to fill in areas where the gums have receded. Graft tissue, usually taken from the roof of your mouth, is sutured in place over the affected area.
- **Flap surgery** allows us to gain access to the root of the tooth for the removal of the calculus, plaque and diseased tissue. Flap surgery is sometimes accompanied by bone surgery, in which the bone around the tooth is reshaped, a part of it is removed or bone graft will be utilized to correct a defect. The gum is then secured back into place.

Post operative Expectations

- Pain, swelling, infection and bruising are a normal part of any surgery and can last from a few days to a few weeks in duration. This may result in discomfort especially with eating.
- Post operative discomfort and swelling may require several days of recuperation
- Bleeding may be prolonged
- Post operative infection may require additional treatment

Potential Complications

- Injury to adjacent teeth, fillings and crowns
- Stretching of the mouth causing bruising and cracking
- Restricted mouth opening (truisms) for several days
- Injury to the nerve underlying the teeth from the infection or the surgical procedure resulting in numbness or tingling of the lip, chin, gums, teeth and/or tongue which may persist for several weeks, months and sometimes permanently
- Opening of the sinus
- Additional medications, drugs, anesthetics and prescriptions may cause drowsiness and unawareness.

No guarantees are given that the proposed treatment will be successful in correction of the condition. As such, there is risk of failure, relapse, selective re-treatment or aggravation of the present condition despite care provided. However, if the condition is not treated the problem may progress as explained above.

I have read and understand the above and consent to the treatment proposed.

Patient Signature: _____ Date: _____

Witness Signature: _____ Date: _____

Dentist Signature: _____ Date: _____