

## Susan Bracker, DDS

### Consent for Endodontic (root canal) Treatment

**1. ROOT CANAL THERAPY IS APPROXIMATELY 95% SUCCESSFUL.**

Many factors influence the treatment outcome; the patients general health, bone support of the tooth, strength of the tooth including possible fracture lines that may not be visible to the eye , shape and condition of the root and nerve canals, etc.

**2. The tooth may normally be sensitive following treatment and stay sensitive for a time after treatment is completed.** If sensitivity persists, and does not seem to be getting better several weeks after the root canal is finished, please inform us.

**3. Fractures are one of the main reasons root canals fail.** Unfortunately some cracks that form, extend from the crown into the root and are invisible OR very difficult to detect. They occur on uncrowned teeth from traumatic injury, biting on hard objects, habitual clenching or grinding, or even normal wear and tear. Whether the fracture occurs before or after a root canal it may require extraction.

**4. Since teeth with root canals tend to already have large fillings, and also become brittle a crown is highly recommended.**

**5. Teeth with root canals can decay, but since the nerve is gone there will be no pain.** As with other teeth proper care requires optimum home care, a sensible diet, and regular dental check-ups.

**6. With some teeth conventional root canal alone may not be sufficient.** For example, if the canals are severely curved which is not always apparent on x-rays, substantial or long term infections or if a metal file becomes separated in the canal or if the tooth just remains sensitive. A separate procedure, which is surgical with an additional fee, will be required. This procedure is required approximately 3% of the time and the success rate of the procedure is 90%. This procedure is referred to a specialist.

**7. Periodontal disease.** Regardless of the success of endodontic therapy, diseases of the bone can be insidious and if proper oral hygiene is not maintained, bone loss is inevitable.

**8. There are alternatives to root canal therapy.** These include: extraction of the tooth with replacement with a bridge, implant or partial, or extraction with no replacement in which the teeth will shift and drift around causing more severe problems down the road and cost more to restore once the movement has.

**The nature of root canal therapy has been explained to me and I have had a chance to have my questions answered. I understand that root canals do not carry a guarantee. I also understand that extraction of the tooth without proper replacement will cause a domino effect that results in more serious problems with restoring, bite collapsing and problems with my Temporal Mandibular Joint(TMJ) down the road.**

Name and date \_\_\_\_\_