

Informed Consent for Dental Hygiene Treatment

This consent form is a document to ensure that you are well informed about the dental hygiene treatments being proposed, their potential risks and benefits, and your options. If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask your dental care provider

1. Overview of Treatments

As part of your dental hygiene treatment at our program, you may undergo one or more of the following procedures:

- Dental Prophylaxis (Teeth Cleaning for Maintenance of Healthy Dental Condition)
- Periodontal Maintenance (Teeth cleaning for established gum disease conditions)
- Scaling and Root Planing (Deep Cleaning)
- Ultrasonic Scaling
- Local Anesthesia
- Nitrous Oxide - Oxygen Sedation
- Local Antibiotic Placement (e.g. Arestin)
- Pit and Fissure Sealants
- Fluoride Treatment
- Dental Radiation (X-rays)
- Soft Tissue Curettage
- Interim Therapeutic Restoration (ITR)

2. Description of Procedures

Prophylaxis: This procedure involves the removal of plaque, calculus (tartar), and stains from the teeth to prevent dental diseases such as cavities and gum disease.

Periodontal Maintenance: Periodontal maintenance is a treatment for patients with a history of periodontal disease. It involves the thorough cleaning of the teeth, both above and below the gumline, to prevent further progression of the disease.

Scaling and Root Planing (Deep Cleaning): This procedure involves the removal of plaque and tartar from below the gum line to treat and prevent periodontal disease.

Ultrasonic Scaling: This procedure uses high-frequency vibrations to remove plaque, calculus, and stains from the teeth and below the gum line.

Local Anesthesia: Anesthesia is administered to numb the treatment area for more comfortable dental procedures.

Topical Antibiotic Placement (e.g., Arestin): Local topical antibiotics are placed in periodontal pockets to help control bacterial infections and promote healing of the gums.

Pit and Fissure Sealants: A protective coating is applied to the chewing surfaces of the back teeth to prevent cavities.

Fluoride Treatment: Application of fluoride to the teeth to strengthen enamel and prevent decay.

Dental Radiation (X-rays): Use of low-dose radiation to capture images of the teeth, bones, and surrounding tissues to help assess and diagnose oral and dental issues.

Soft Tissue Curettage: Removal of the inflamed soft tissue lining of the periodontal pocket to promote healing and reattachment of the gums.

Interim Therapeutic Restoration (ITR): A temporary restoration used to stabilize a tooth until a more permanent restoration can be performed. It involves removing decay and placing a temporary filling material.

Procedure	Potential Risks and Consequences	Benefits of Treatment
Prophylaxis (Teeth Cleaning)	- Minor gum irritation - Sensitivity	- Prevention and control of dental diseases such as cavities and gum disease - Improve oral hygiene and overall dental health
Periodontal Maintenance	- Minor gum irritation - Sensitivity	- Prevention and control of dental diseases such as cavities and gum disease - Improve and maintain oral hygiene and overall dental health
Scaling and Root Planing	- Temporary sensitivity to hot, cold, and sweet stimuli - Soreness or discomfort in the gums - Possible infection if post-treatment instructions are not followed - Slight bleeding after the procedure	- Reduces bacteria and inflammation - Prevents progression of periodontal disease - Promotes gum health and reattachment of gums to teeth
Ultrasonic Scaling	- Temporary tooth sensitivity - Gum discomfort - Minor gum irritation	- Removes plaque and tartar effectively - Reduces bacteria and inflammation in the gums
Local Anesthesia	- Possible allergic reaction to topical anesthetic (Benzocaine) - Temporary numbness or tingling in the treated area - Bruising or soreness at the injection site - Rare risk of nerve damage/allergic reaction to local anesthesia	- Provides pain relief during procedures - Enhances comfort during treatment
Nitrous Oxide-Oxygen Sedation	- Nausea, vomiting, headache, dizziness or lightheadedness, excessive sedation, respiratory issue, claustrophobia, decreased awareness, the potential effect on pregnancy, and middle ear pressure.	- Reduce anxiety and possible pain management
Local Topical Antibiotic Placement (e.g. Arestin)	- Allergic reactions - Temporary gum irritation - Discomfort at the site placement	- Promotes healing of periodontal pockets - Reduces bacteria and inflammation - Enhances overall gum health
Pit and Fissure Sealants	- Possible allergic reaction to sealant material - Temporary discomfort or sensitivity - Sealants may chip or wear off, requiring reapplication	- Protects against tooth decay - Easy and painless application
Fluoride Treatment	- Temporary tooth discoloration or staining - Possible allergic reaction - Nausea if fluoride is ingested	- Strengthens tooth enamel - Helps prevent cavities
Dental Radiation (X-rays)	- Minimal exposure to radiation with a very low risk of harmful effects - Potential for cumulative exposure if X-rays are taken frequently	- Aids in the diagnosis of dental issues not visible during a regular examination - Helps in planning appropriate treatment
Soft Tissue Curettage	- Temporary soreness or discomfort in the gums - Slight bleeding after the procedure - Possible infection if post-treatment care is not followed	- Promotes healing of periodontal pockets - Reduces bacteria and inflammation - Enhances overall gum health
Interim Therapeutic Restoration (ITR)	- Temporary sensitivity or discomfort - Possible allergic reaction to the materials used - Restoration may need to be replaced or repaired - Does not provide a permanent solution and requires follow-up care	- Stabilizes decayed teeth - Prevents further decay and damage - Provides temporary relief until a permanent restoration can be performed

5. Patient Responsibilities:

- Inform the dental hygienist (student and instructor) of any changes in your medical history, including allergies, medications, and health conditions, recent hospitalizations, and/or surgeries.
- Follow post-treatment instructions provided by the dental hygienist (student and instructor) to ensure proper healing and maintenance of your dental health.

6. Alternatives to Proposed Treatment

I understand that I have the option to decline these treatments or seek alternative treatments, which may include:

- Seek outside dental professional services
- Topical anesthetics or no anesthesia for procedures
- Manual hand scaling instead of ultrasonic scaling.
- No nitrous oxide sedation.
- Dental fillings provided by outside dental professionals instead of sealants for cavity prevention
- Regular brushing and over-the-counter fluoride products instead of professional fluoride treatment
- No dental X-rays, Dental hygiene treatment will not be provided without proper diagnosing with X-rays.
- Regular periodontal maintenance without soft tissue curettage
- Not restoring caries or broken teeth instead of interim therapeutic restoration