

INFORMED CONSENT

The following information is given to all our patients who are considering orthodontic treatment. An informed patient who gives his/her full cooperation can expect better orthodontic results. There are a lot of advantages to a beautiful smile and healthy teeth, but unfortunately, as is the case with all other treatment procedures of the body, there are risks and limitations involved. These risks are small enough for you to refuse the orthodontic treatment, but are also important factors in deciding to continue.

Decalcification (permanent marks), tooth decay and gum disease may occur during treatment if the patient does not maintain a good oral hygiene regime. **Excellent Oral Hygiene** and plaque control is an absolute must during orthodontic treatment.

Teeth tend to “relapse” after orthodontic treatment – especially the lower front teeth. This is more common in patients with more severe malocclusions.

To minimise this the patient will be given retention appliances specific to their needs as well as the necessary instructions on wearing them. It is the patient’s responsibility to wear these appliances as prescribed, otherwise the teeth will most definitely move back to their original position. We are committed to giving Orthodontic treatment of the highest standards and in some cases we will over-correct the teeth in order to compensate for relapse tendencies. Unfortunately relapse can occur even after the retention period has ended. Patients with a deep bite are more likely to get relapse.

A non-vital tooth (nerve degeneration) can present with symptoms during orthodontic treatment. A deep filling (restoration) or even a light blow can damage teeth. The degeneration process continues for years – with or without orthodontic treatment. A non-vital tooth requires endodontic (root canal) treatment.

In some instances shortening of the roots of the teeth may occur. This is called root resorption. Under normal circumstances root resorption does not result in long-term side effects, but should there be any gum disease it may affect the preservation of teeth in later years. It is important to remember that other factors such as: injuries, surgery, impacted teeth, hormonal imbalances and other unknown factors, can also lead to root resorption.

Problems of the jaw joint (temporo-mandibular joint/ TMJ) may occur. Problems of the TMJ that are caused by a malocclusion, might improve with orthodontic treatment. Stress plays an important role in the prevalence and severity of TMJ problems.

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A patient with a normal growth pattern and facial proportions before treatment sometimes does not continue to grow in this manner. In these cases the treatment will need to be adapted to the changed jaw relationships. Growth is a biological process, which is not controllable by orthodontics.

Treatment sometimes takes longer than expected. Factors that may lead to this are: Slow facial growth, an uncooperative patient who doesn't wear his/her elastics and headgear as prescribed, broken appliances, frequently cancelled appointments. These are only a few of the factors that will influence the quality of the end result as well as increase the treatment time.

Instructions regarding the wear of headgear must be followed meticulously. Headgear that is removed without removing the elastics first can cause trauma to the eyes or face. The elastics must always be removed before the headgear. For safety reasons, the headgear should not be worn during physical activities such as sport or whilst in a moving vehicle.

If you have any queries regarding the factors discussed in this document, please don't hesitate to discuss it with us.

In order to get the best orthodontic results, we need the cooperation of everyone involved: the orthodontist and his staff, the parents and family and most important of all, the patient.

I confirm that I have read this document and am therefore fully aware of the costs associated with orthodontic treatment, the financial policy of this practice, as well as the informed consent.

Signature of main member

Name in block letters

Date

Signature of parent/guardian

Name in block letters

Date