ENDODONTIC INFORMATION FORM

We would like our patients to be informed about the various procedures involved in endodontic therapy and have their consent before starting treatment. Endodontic (root canal) therapy is performed in order to save a tooth which otherwise might need to be removed. This is accomplished by conservative root canal therapy, or when needed, endodontic surgery. The following discusses possible risks that may occur from endodontic treatment.

1. The purpose of root canal therapy is to retain teeth that would otherwise be extracted.

2. Treatment may require multiple visits. It is important that you maintain scheduled appointments or infection can occur and treatment may fail.

3. In most cases, there is only mild discomfort following each treatment. This is usually controlled with aspirin, tylenol, ibuprofen, or prescribed medication.

4. Endodontic treatment has a high degree of success. As in any medical or dental treatment, however, this treatment has no guarantee of success for any length of time. Teeth with previous root canal treatment may have a lower success rate and fractured teeth can be unpredictable in their treatment results.

5. Accurate and complete disclosure of medical information is necessary for proper diagnosis, and to help prevent unnecessary complications during your treatment, and maintain safety.

6. Local anesthetic and occasionally, oral or IV sedation may be required.

7. The most common complications with root canal therapy include, but are not limited to:
   
   a. Continued infection requiring endodontic surgery or extraction of the tooth.
   
   b. Calcified canals or canals blocked by broken instruments requiring endodontic surgery or extraction of the tooth.

   c. Pain, requiring use of over the counter or prescribed medication.

   d. Side effects and reactions to medication including allergy, although rare.

   e. Fractures (breaking) of the root or crown of the tooth during or after treatment. It is recommended that all posterior (back) teeth be crowned following root canal treatment. If your tooth already has a crown, there is a chance it will need to be replaced due to decay, age, or loss of structural support. Porcelain crowns are subject to breakage during endodontic access.

   f. Tenderness of the tooth following treatment due to possible complications with root canal treatment, gum disease, physical stress from chewing, or the degree of healing your body exhibits. Variations of healing may occur from time to time, even on the same patient.

8. Other treatment choices include: no treatment, waiting for more definite development of symptoms, or tooth extraction. Risks involved in these choices may include pain, infection, swelling, loss of teeth, and infection to other areas, particularly if decay or unsupervised care is chosen.

9. If you have any questions, please ask.

Initial: ________________ Date: ________________