



INFORMED CONSENT FOR TMJ PHASE 1 TREATMENT

I (Patient Name) _____ hereby authorize Dr. _____
(herein called Doctor) to perform TMJ Phase 1 Treatment on myself.

Understanding Signs and Symptoms of TMJ Dysfunction

Disorders of the Temporo-mandibular Joint (TMJ) can mimic other dental and medical conditions. A proper diagnosis regarding head and neck pain is very important because serious medical problems such as vascular disorders, brain tumors, aneurisms, cervical disk disorders, throat and oral cancer, etc., can produce similar symptoms to those of TMJ disorders. It is important that you discuss your symptoms with your physician in order to rule out any serious medical condition.

Length of Treatment

The length of treatment may vary according to the complexity of your condition. Therefore, treatment times may vary from estimates. Although most conditions respond well to treatment, general health, stress, degree of tissue injury, posture, age, work habits, bite relationship, etc., affect the outcome. Total resolution is not always possible and is not guaranteed.

Phase One Treatment

The estimated time for Phase One (Orthotic) treatment is 6-8 months however, could be longer. In general, the treatment plan will be lengthier and more complicated if the symptoms are severe or if the problem has existed for a long time.

The fee for Phase One Treatment includes fabrication, fitting of the orthotic and up to 3 months of adjustment appointments. Treatment requiring longer than 8 months, or requiring extensive refinement of the bite, could incur additional fees. Orthotic appliances are not fabricated for long-term durability. It is the patient's responsibility to pay for lost appliances, or those that break after a 6-month period. The fee for a replacement orthotic is \$2000 and includes 1 adjustment.

The type of treatment to be used is based on the Doctor's experience, skills, and knowledge of what is the most proven, appropriate, cost effective, and conservative methods available. There is still debate in the medical-dental community regarding what is the best way to treat various TMJ disorders.

Understanding of Treatment Risks

As with any medical or dental treatment, unusual occurrences can and do happen. These possibilities include minor tooth movement, loosening of teeth or dental restorations, sore mouth, periodontal (gum) problems, muscle spasms, ear pain, neck pain, etc. Though complications are rare, but may theoretically occur, and it is important for you to understand that additional medical or dental risks that have not been mentioned may occur. Before commencing treatment, the Doctor will have explained to you the nature of the treatment along with its purpose, benefits, and risks. He will also have explained possible alternatives to the TMJ orthopedic treatment that is being recommended.

Communications

Good communication is essential to successful treatment. Please feel free to discuss with the Doctor any issues or ask any questions you may have regarding your progress or the treatment. Although the type of orthopedic treatment that the Doctor provides often provides great relief of symptoms, it is important for you to understand that optimal resolution may necessitate referral to other health professionals. These professionals may include physical therapists, chiropractors, nutritionists, physicians, neurologists, or ENT specialists. The Doctor can only resolve symptoms that are related to your bite.

Compliance

The degree to which you comply with the prescribed treatment plan will have a significant effect on the success of the treatment. Failure to follow the instructions will delay the treatment time and seriously effect the outcome.

No Warranty or Guarantee

I hereby acknowledge that no guarantee, warranty or assurance has been given to me that the proposed treatment will be successful. I understand that I will not be refunded any fees/costs of my treatment if I do not get all or partial resolution of my TMD or if I decide not to complete my treatment.

Phase Two Treatment

A final finishing stage (Phase Two Treatment) is usually required for a permanent solution. Your TMJ orthotic is not constructed for long-term use.

Phase Two Treatment may include one of the following treatments:

1. Stabilization of the bite by restorative means (porcelain restorations, crowns, bridges, implants, etc.).
2. Orthodontics (appliance therapy, braces)
3. A combination of orthodontics and restorative stabilization.

Acknowledgement of Understanding and Consent for Treatment

I consent to the taking of photographs and x-rays before, during and after TMJ treatment as they are a necessary part of the diagnostic procedure and record keeping. Further, I give permission of the use of these photographs, x-rays and any records for the purpose of research, education, or publication in professional journals.

I acknowledge that the Doctor is a general dentist who has received post-graduate training in the field of TMJ dentistry.

I have read this entire form and understand everything explained in it. I have had the opportunity to ask the doctor about any questions I may have about the treatment, the risks of treatment, the alternative treatment methods and the substantial risks of the alternative treatment methods. The doctor has answered all my questions. I authorize Dr. _____ and whomever they may choose as their assistants to perform the proposed TMJ treatment.

Signature of Patient _____ Date _____

Signature of Dentist _____ Date _____