



Plumstead Dental Surgery

Alternatives to Endodontic Treatment

Depending on my diagnosis, there may or may not be alternatives to root canal treatment that involve other types of dental care.

I understand the two most common alternatives to root canal treatment are:

- Extraction. I may decide to have tooth # [] removed. The extracted tooth usually requires replacement by an artificial tooth by means of a fixed bridge, dental implant, or removable partial denture.
- No treatment. I may decide not to have any treatment performed at all. If I decide upon not having the recommended treatment, my condition may worsen and I may risk serious personal injury, including severe pain; localized infection; loss of this tooth and possibly other teeth; severe swelling; and/or severe infection that may be potentially fatal.

[Forename/Surname] I have had an opportunity to ask questions about these alternatives and any other treatments I have heard or thought about, including [].

Risks of Endodontic Treatment

I have been informed and fully understand that there are certain inherent and potential risks associated with root canal treatment. I understand that during and after treatment I may experience pain or discomfort, swelling, bleeding, changes in my bite, and loosening or loss of dental restorations. I understand that it is possible for an infection to occur or an existing infection to worsen in the tooth being treated and/or in the area around the tooth, and that I may need antibiotics and/or other procedures to treat the infection.

Risks of Endodontic Treatment

I understand that root canal instruments sometimes separate (break) inside the canal. This is more likely when canals are curved and/or narrowed. If the separated fragment cannot be retrieved, it may require sealing inside the root canal. It also may be necessary to have oral surgery performed on the tooth root (apicoectomy) to address the problem. I understand that a separated instrument often decreases the likelihood of clinical success.

I understand that other risks include: perforation of the tooth or tooth root by an instrument; injury to soft tissues adjacent to the tooth; sinus perforation; and nerve disturbances such as temporary or permanent numbness, itching, burning, or tingling of the lip, tongue, chin, teeth, and/or mouth tissues.

I understand that many factors contribute to the success of root canal treatment and not all factors can be determined in advance, if ever. Some of the factors include but are not limited to: my resistance to infection; the specific bacteria causing the infection; the size, shape, and location of the canals; the force with which I bite. I understand that my case may be more difficult if my tooth has blocked canals, curved canals, or very narrow canals.



Plumstead Dental Surgery

I understand that root canal treatment may not relieve my symptoms, that treatment can fail during or after completion of treatment; and that it may fail for unknown reasons. If treatment fails, other procedures (including root canal retreatment and/or oral surgery) may be necessary to attempt to retain the tooth, or it may require extraction.

I understand that I will be given a local anaesthetic injection and that in rare situations, patients may have an allergic reaction to the anaesthetic, an adverse medication reaction to the anaesthetic, or temporary or permanent injury to nerves and/or blood vessels from the injection. I understand that the injection area(s) may be uncomfortable following treatment, and that my jaw may be stiff and sore from the anaesthetic injection or from holding my mouth open during treatment.

I understand that once root canal treatment is completed, I must promptly return to begin the next step in treatment. If I fail to return to have the tooth restored, I risk a failure of the root canal treatment, decay, infection, and tooth fracture and loss of the tooth.

Other foreseeable risks not stated above include: []

[Forename/Surname], I have had an opportunity to ask questions about these risks and any other risks I have heard or thought about, including []

Acknowledgment

I have provided as accurate and complete a medical and personal history as possible, including antibiotics, drugs, or other medications I am currently taking as well as those to which I am allergic. I will follow any and all treatment and post-treatment instructions as explained and directed to me and will permit the recommended diagnostic procedures, including X-rays.

I realise that in spite of the possible complications and risks, my recommended root canal treatment is necessary. I am aware that the practice of dentistry is not an exact science, and I acknowledge that no guarantees have been made to me concerning the results of the treatment.

I, [Forename/Surname], have received information about the proposed treatment. I have discussed my treatment with Dentist [] and have been given an opportunity to ask questions and have them fully answered. I understand the nature of the recommended treatment, alternate treatment options, the risks of the recommended treatment, and the risks of refusing treatment.

I wish to proceed with the recommended treatment.

[Forename/Surname], I understand this treatment can also be performed by an endodontist (a root canal specialist). I understand the risks and elect to have this procedure performed by Dentist []. I understand that if any unexpected difficulties occur during treatment, I may be referred to an endodontist for further care.

Forename

Surname



Plumstead Dental Surgery

Signed