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Consent For Endodontic Treatment (Root Canal)

**What is Root Canal Therapy?** Total debridement and disinfection of the root canal system using fine instruments. The root canal system of the tooth is then obturated with an inert rubber material called *gutta percha*.

**Why Perform Root Canal Therapy? Tooth preservation.** A damaged or diseased tooth will not heal by itself. Without treatment, the infection will spread, bone around the tooth will degenerate and the tooth will be lost. The only alternative to treatment would be tooth removal.

Once root canal therapy is completed, there is no more nourishment to the tooth, making it more susceptible to fracture. Thus, it is recommended that a crown be placed on the tooth in order to protect the tooth from fracture.

**Symptoms:** Swelling of gums and or facial swelling. Constant throbbing pain or lingering discomfort may occur as well as hypersensitivity to hot and or cold fluids. Chronic cases may have no symptoms – only what is seen on a radiograph (x-ray).

**Complications:** If an opening through an existing crown is made, there is a risk of damage, requiring the fabrication of a new crown with an added expense. Root canal treatment has a 90% success rate. Despite our best efforts to save the tooth, unforeseen events may occur such as instrument failure (separation of instruments inside the tooth). Furthermore, the anatomy of the root canal system (e.g. curvature of roots and the presence of accessory canals) may compromise treatment. Calcification of the root canal system may also make the treatment difficult to achieve an ideal result.

No guarantees are given that the proposed treatment will be successful in correction of the condition. As such, there is risk of failure, relapse, or aggravation of the present condition despite care provided. However, if the condition is not treated, the result will be tooth loss.

Patient Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dentist Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_