POTENTIAL RISKS & LIMITATIONS OF ORTHODONTIC TREATMENT

Generally, excellent orthodontic results can be achieved with informed and cooperative patients. You should be aware that orthodontic treatment, like treatment of any part of the body, has some risks and limitations. These are seldom severe enough to offset the advantages of treatment, but should be considered in making the decision to undergo orthodontics.

Decay, gum disease and permanent markings on teeth can occur if patients do not brush frequently and properly or eat hard or sticky foods, or foods with excessive sugar.

A tooth that has been traumatized by a blow or large filling may require Endodontics (root canal) when it is moved with orthodontic appliances. Sometimes a tooth may have a non-vital pulp (nerve) and orthodontic movement may make the need for endodontic treatment apparent.

In some cases, the length of the roots of some teeth may be shortened during orthodontic treatment. Usually this is of no consequence, but on rare occasions it is a serious threat to the longevity of the teeth involved.

Teeth have a tendency to return toward their original position after treatment. Usually this is only minor. Faithful wearing of retainers reduce this tendency. A common site for these changes is the lower front teeth and some changes in this area should be expected.

Occasionally a person who has had normal growth of the jaws may not continue to do so. If growth becomes disproportionate, the relationship of the upper jaw to the lower jaw may change, requiring additional treatment, or, in some cases, surgery. Growth disharmony is a biological process beyond the orthodontist’s control.

There is a risk that problems may occur in the temporomandibular joints (TMJ) just in front of the ear. Orthodontic treatment can improve dental cause of TMJ pain, but not in all cases. In moving the teeth to new position, the jaws may be uncomfortable for a while.

The total time for treatment can be longer than our estimated time. Lack of bone growth, poor cooperation, broken appliances and missed appointments are important factors which can lengthen treatment and affect the quality of the result.

I have read, understand and of the above consent to treatment.

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Signature                  Date