CONSENT FOR ROOT CANAL TREATMENT

What is Root Canal Treatment?

Inside every tooth there is a nerve. If decay reaches the nerve or if a tooth fractures, bacteria can cause infection. Root canal treatment (RCT) is a dental procedure during which this nerve is removed.

Is success guaranteed?

Root canal treatment is normally successful, however it should be remembered that it is impossible to guarantee 100% success, even if all parts of the procedure go as planned. Further steps may be needed to treat the tooth, this may include an extraction or a referral to a specialist.

The procedure:

Root Canal Treatment may take 2-3 appointments. We will give local anaesthetic to numb the tooth and following this you should not feel any discomfort. The nerve tissue is gently removed and the canals in your roots are then prepared, cleaned, measured and sterilised.

What happens after Root Canal Therapy?

Before the local anaesthetic wears off, if required you can take paracetamol. It is normal to have some discomfort after root canal therapy but this usually subsides after 24 hours. It is recommended to avoid exerting too much pressure on the tooth until it is fully restored.

A tooth with no nerve is more brittle so it is essential that the tooth is properly protected. A crown or inlay is often necessary. Once restored the tooth can be used normally, but until then it is wise to be cautious.

Expected complications:

• Numbness lasting a few hours.

• Soreness of the gums lasting a few days.

Common risks and complications:

• Trauma to other parts of the mouth including adjacent teeth, gums, cheeks, tongue etc.

• Weakening of the tooth being treated meaning it might require further work in the future to restore it to decent strength (a crown)

• Darkening of the tooth.

• Inability to locate, clean and seal all parts of the root canal resulting in failure to remove all pain and/or infection.

Rare risks and complications:

• Fracture of the tooth resulting in extraction being required

• Separation (fracture) of an instrument within the tooth

• Perforation of the floor or root of the tooth by an instrument

• Trauma to tissues underneath the tooth including bone, sinus, nerves supplying other teeth etc.

• An allergic reaction to something used during the procedure.

Alternative options:

1. Referral to a specialist in this field who may be able treat the tooth better via the use of a microscope and specialist equipment etc.

2. Extraction leading to a gap or further work to replace the tooth such as a bridge, implant or denture.

3. Refusing treatment but this will result in a high risk of further pain and infection from this tooth.

By signing below I acknowledge that this procedure has been explained to me and I have had time to ask questions, consider my options and am happy to proceed. I am also aware that I have the right to seek a second opinion from another dentist at any time.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_