

Smiles Of Carpentersville
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Informed Consent for Fillings

Patient's Name (PLEASE PRINT)

Date

On examination, it has been determined that I have either a cavity (decay) or tooth breakdown that requires a dental filling. The cavity may or may not be causing pain and will usually progress to a point where the tooth needs root canal treatment or extraction.

A tooth is a hard structure that has a hollow chamber inside it. Within this hollow chamber lie the nerves and blood vessels. Toxins from bacteria in the cavity can cause the pulp to become sick and need root canal treatment. The sooner the cavity is fixed, the lower the chance of the tooth needing root canal treatment. Even a tooth that is not hurting can end up needing root canal treatment. Bacterial toxins may have caused the pulp to die and therefore it does not hurt. However this is not a good thing as a dead pulp will get infected sooner or later and this can become very painful and dangerous.

The process of removing the cavity and putting in the filling can also cause the tooth to become aggravated and need root canal treatment. How does this happen? Removing the cavity with a bur generate heat. Water is used to dissipate the heat, however the process can irritate the pulp which then needs root canal treatment.

The treatment of a cavity involves removing the decayed tooth surface and restoring the void. In our office, we use Composite It is a white filling material which can match the color of the tooth closely. It is the most popular material used to restore teeth currently in North America. It adheres to the tooth structure and is esthetically compatible. These fillings may need to be replaced every 3-5 years. There is controversy surrounding this material that studies have shown it to release estrogen like chemicals. Depending on your dental coverage, some plans do not pay full price for this kind of filling and there is a difference that will be your liability.

We can never know with certainty the extent of the cavity as x-rays do not give us an exact indication. A tooth that started needing a simple filling can end up needing more extensive work like an onlay, crown, root canal treatment or even an extraction. We recommend treatment as early as possible.

I have read the above and had an opportunity to ask questions. I hereby authorize the practice and any associates to perform the procedure.

TOOTH #/s _____

Patient's or Guardian's Signature

Date