

Informed Consent for Composite Fillings

I understand that the treatment of my teeth involving the placement of composite resin fillings (white fillings) has certain risks which include, but are not limited to:

Sensitivity: Often, after preparation of teeth for the placement of any restoration, there may be sensitivity ranging from mild to severe. Sensitivity usually lasts for a short time. However, if persistent sensitivity exists additional treatments may be necessary. These may include adjusting the bite, redoing the restoration, root canal therapy, or extraction.

Root Canal Therapy: When fillings are placed, or replaced, the preparation of the teeth often includes the removal of tooth structure to ensure complete removal of diseased tissue or otherwise compromised tooth structure. This exposes sound tooth structure for the placement of the filling. As the preparation gets deeper, the nerve is more likely to become inflamed. In addition, removal of tooth structure may lead us directly into the nerve. As well, sometimes a tooth is in a dormant stage of infection, and preparation of the tooth may disturb it enough to begin the infection again. Should any of these above occur, root canal therapy may be necessary to stop pain coming from the tooth.

Breakage and Bond Failure: Due to extreme biting pressures and forces, it is possible for fillings to break or become dislodged. If the filling is very large upon completion, a crown is recommended to protect against fracturing. As well, with fewer teeth in the mouth, there is more force applied on these remaining teeth and so they are more likely to break.

Fracturing: Upon preparation of the tooth, especially when replacing failing amalgam (silver) fillings, tooth structure that is fractured can become dislodged. Typically the tooth has been fractured for a long time and preparation only reveals what was hiding underneath. When the tooth breaks away like this, a stronger restoration is usually necessary, such as a crown. In addition sensitivity may become an issue and root canal therapy may be required.

No Treatment: If a tooth has a cavity and no treatment is performed, the cavity eventually gets deeper and more widespread. Typically this results in pain, and may lead to a root canal or extraction if there is too much tooth destruction. It is recommended to restore all cavities as soon as they are found. In addition, if a failing silver filling is not replaced, there is a possibility of a cavity forming in the crevice between the filling and the tooth. In addition, as silver fillings expand, they fracture teeth. If not corrected, the tooth may fracture, and fixing a fractured tooth includes any or a combination of the following: composite filling, root canal therapy, crown, extraction.

Informed Consent:

I have read and understand the **Informed Consent for Composite Fillings** document. I have had the opportunity to ask questions and I am satisfied with all of the answers provided. I accept that the doctors will do their very best to provide me with a comfortable restoration, and I accept any complications that may arise from the work. I authorize any local anaesthesia to be used if necessary and any medications that may be useful during and after the procedure. I give consent for all composite restorations that I may receive in the future at Bridge Street Dental Centre. I authorize photos, x-rays or any other viewing of my care and treatment during or after completion to be used for the advancement of dentistry. My identity will not be revealed to the general public without my permission.

_____	_____	_____
Patient Name (printed)	Patient (or Guardian) Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____
Doctor's Signature	Witness	Date