

Consent for Perio Flap Surgery

The surgical procedure to be performed is called a flap with osseous recontouring.

The purposes of this procedure are to (1) aid in visualizing and removing plaque, bacteria, and calculus from the tooth surfaces and (2) reduce the depths of pockets to facilitate more effective cleaning by the patient.

Under local anesthetic, gum tissue is reflected and access to the roots and surrounding bone is achieved. Plaque, bacteria, and calculus are removed, any uneven bone is reshaped, and a small amount of gum tissue is removed to reduce the depths of the pockets. The gum tissue is repositioned and sutures are placed when necessary.

In some cases, a bone graft is necessary to regenerate lost bone. This is performed during flap surgery. A granular bone material is placed in the area where bone loss has occurred. Sometimes a resorbable membrane is placed to contain the graft. The graft material prevents gum tissue from growing into the space and provides a framework for new natural bone formation. The graft material will eventually be absorbed by your body and replaced with your own new natural bone.

Risks of these procedures include bleeding, infection, in isolated regions a numbness which is usually temporary, and perforation of the maxillary sinus. Teeth usually appear longer after surgery and spaces at the gum line are larger. Temperature sensitivity may occur, usually resolves after a few weeks, and is controllable. Speech may be affected.

The above procedure is intended to improve the chances of, but not guarantee, controlling your periodontal disease. Of course, the predictability of these procedures will improve with the proper oral hygiene techniques we have reviewed with you.

I understand all of the above and consent to this (these) procedures.

(I.)

ALTERNATIVE THERAPY OPTIONS:

Alternatives, benefits, and potential complications of perio surgery have been explained by my dentist.

A) Non-surgical root planing

After local anesthetic injections of my gums, root surfaces are scaled and deep cleaned (planed) to the bottom of any gum pockets by hand or ultrasonic instruments to remove bacterial plaque on teeth and root tartar (calculus) deposits.

B) Periodontal flap surgery

After local anesthesia injections, flap surgery involves surgically incising my gum tissues. After the gums are flapped and surgically lifted away from my teeth, underlying diseased gum tissue is curetted out, roots planed, diseased bone trimmed and/or grafted. Finally the flap of gum tissue is closed with sutures.

C) Don nothing option, where gum disease may become worse.

(II.)

NO GUARANTEE for desirable outcomes

Perio surgery, as with all periodontal procedures, may not be entirely successful in gum pocket reduction or new attachment. Success is not guaranteed.

(III.)

Second opinion from periodontal specialist

Dr. Fields in Reston VA is an excellent local periodontist we recommend for second opinions.

(IV.) NON-TREATMENT RISKS

Doing nothing can worsen my periodontal disease including increased gum pocket depth which predisposes to early (premature) teeth loss, infections, and abscesses. Lost teeth require replacement with costly implants, crowns, bridges, or partial/complete dentures

Legal Fees:

The dental company is entitled to claim legal fees and lost wages incurred for any situation where legal action against the dental company is initiated and ultimately unsuccessful.