

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROCEDURE

In-office tooth whitening is a procedure designed to lighten the color of my teeth using a professional strength hydrogen peroxide, and to achieve results in the shortest possible time. During the procedure the whitening gel will be applied to my teeth for up to four (4) 8-minute sessions. During the entire treatment a plastic retractor will be placed in my mouth to help keep it open and the soft tissues of my mouth (i.e., my lips, gums, cheeks and tongue) will be covered to ensure they are not exposed to the gel. I will be provided protective eyewear for my eyes. After the treatment is completed, the retractor and all gel and tissue coverings will be removed from my mouth. Before and after the treatment, the shade of my upper-front teeth will be assessed and recorded.

ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS

I understand the in-office whitening treatment is elective. However, should I decide to undergo the treatment, I understand there are alternative treatments for whitening my teeth for which my dentist can provide me additional information. These treatments include: Whitening Toothpastes/Gels, Take-Home Whitening Kits, Porcelain Crowns, Veneers or Composites.

COST

I understand that the cost of my in-office treatment is determined by my dentist. I understand that my dentist will inform me if there are any other costs associated with the treatment.

CONSENT FOR TREATMENT

I understand that:

- existing issues should be treated before undergoing a whitening procedure.
- results will vary or regress due to a variety of circumstances.
- whitening treatments are not intended to lighten artificial teeth, caps, crowns, veneers or porcelain, composite or other restorative materials, and that these types of restorations may need to be replaced at my expense to match my newly whitening teeth.

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- darkly stained yellow or yellow-brown teeth frequently achieve better results than people with gray or bluish-gray teeth.
- teeth with multiple colorations, bands, or spots due to tetracycline use or fluorosis do not whiten as well, may whiten unevenly, may require additional whitening, or may not whiten at all.
- previous orthodontic treatments may cause teeth to whiten unevenly if any resin from the treatment was not properly removed from the teeth, either due to residual resin remaining on the teeth or overpolishing upon removal.
- those with metal crowns, metal fillings, lingual bars or implants may feel excessive heat.
- teeth with many fillings or cavities may not lighten and are usually best treated with other non-whitening alternatives such as veneers or crowns.
- it is recommended that those currently treated for a serious illness or disorder (e.g. immune compromised, AIDS, etc) should consult a medical doctor before use.
- **whitening treatment is not recommended for pregnant or lactating women.**

I understand that the results of my in-office treatment cannot be guaranteed.

Due to the individual nature of tooth discoloration, differing results are possible. For example: yellow-orange discoloration responds more favourably to whitening procedures than does grey discoloration.

I understand that some of the potential complications of this treatment include, but are not limited to:

Tooth Sensitivity/Pain – During the first 24 hours after in-office treatment, some patients can experience some tooth sensitivity or pain. This is normal and is usually mild, but it can be worse in susceptible individuals. Normally, tooth sensitivity or pain following treatment subsides within 24 hours, but in rare cases can persist for longer periods of time in susceptible individuals. People with existing sensitivity, recession exposing root surfaces, exposed dentin, untreated caries, cracked teeth, abfractions, oral tissue injury, open cavities, leaking fillings, or other dental conditions that cause sensitivity or allow higher penetration of the gel into the

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tooth may find that those condition increase or prolong tooth sensitivity or pain after treatment.

Gum/Lip/Cheek Inflammation/Burn – Improper isolation during the whitening procedure may cause or result in (i) inflammation of your gums, lips or cheek margins due to exposure of a small area of those tissues to the whitening gel, or (ii) a chemical burn due to whitening gel coming in contact with soft tissue. The inflammation or burn is usually temporary and will subside in a few days but may persist longer and may result in significant pain or discomfort, depending on the degree to which the soft tissues were exposed to the gel.

Dry/Chapped Lips – The treatment involves three, 8-minute sessions during which the mouth is kept open continuously for the entire treatment by a plastic retractor which covers the lips. This could result in dryness or chapping of the lips or cheek margins, which can be treated by application of lip balm, petroleum jelly or Vitamin E oil.

Cavities or Leaking Fillings – Most dental whitening is indicated for the outside of the teeth, except for patients who have already undergone a root canal procedure. If any open cavities or fillings that are leaking and allowing gel to penetrate the tooth are present, significant pain could result. I understand that if my teeth have these conditions, I should have my cavities filled or my fillings redone before undergoing the whitening treatment.

Cervical Abrasion/Erosion – These are conditions which affect the roots of the teeth when the gums recede and they are characterized by grooves, notches and/or depressions, that appear darker than the rest of the teeth, where the teeth meet the gums. These areas appear darker because they lack the enamel that covers the rest of the teeth. Even if these areas are not currently sensitive, they can allow the whitening gel to penetrate the teeth, causing sensitivity. I understand that if cervical abrasion/ erosion exists on my teeth, these areas will be covered with dental dam prior to my treatment.

Relapse – After the whitening treatment, it is natural for the teeth to regress somewhat in their shading after treatment. This is natural and should be very

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gradual, but it can be accelerated by exposing the teeth to various staining agents. I understand that the results of the in-office treatment are not intended to be permanent and repeat or take-home treatments may be needed for me to maintain the tooth shade I desire for my teeth.

The basic procedures of in-office treatment and the advantages and disadvantages, risks and known possible complications of alternative treatments have been explained to me by my dentist and my dentist has answered all my questions to my satisfaction.

Prior to your appointment:

Please take 600mg ibuprofen (Advil) 1 hour prior to your in-office bleaching appointment. This helps minimize sensitivity during the procedure. Please let Dr. Tuckwood know if you are unable to take ibuprofen.

SIGNATURE

By signing this document I indicate that I have read this informed consent (or it has been read to me), I fully understand the entire document and the possible risks, complications and benefits that can result from the in-office whitening treatment, and that I give my permission for the in-office whitening treatment to be performed on me.

Signature _____

Date: _____

Name: _____