

# Informed Consent for Veneers, Crowns, Implant Crowns and Bridges

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Patient Name

Date of Birth

## **Facts for Consideration**

Treatment involves restoring damaged areas of the tooth above and below the gum line with a crown.

Restoration of a tooth with a crown or veneer is irreversible and requires two phases: (1) preparation of the tooth, an impression to send to the lab, and construction and temporary cementation of a temporary crown; and later, (2) removal of the temporary crown, adjustment and cementation of the completed crown when esthetics and function have been verified.

Once a temporary crown has been placed, it is essential to return to have the new crown placed as soon as it is ready because the temporary crown is not intended to function as well as the permanent crown. Failing to replace the temporary crown with a completed one could lead to decay, gum disease, infections, problems with your bite, and even loss of the tooth.

## **Benefits of Crowns and Veneers, Not Limited to the Following:**

A crown is typically used to strengthen a tooth damaged by decay, fracture, or previous restorations. It can also serve to protect a tooth that has had root canal treatment or improve the way your other teeth fit together.

Crowns and veneers will be used for the purpose of improving the appearance of damaged, discolored, misshapen, misaligned, or poorly spaced teeth.

No guarantee or assurance can be given that the proposed treatment or surgery will cure or improve the conditions listed above.

## **Risks of Crowns and Veneers, Not Limited to the Following:**

*Irritation to nerve tissue:* Preparing a damaged tooth may further irritate the nerve tissue (called the pulp) in the center of the tooth, leaving the tooth feeling sensitive to heat, cold, or pressure. Such sensitive teeth may require additional treatment including endodontic or root canal treatment.

*Stiff or sore jaw joint:* Holding your mouth open during treatment may temporarily leave your jaw feeling stiff and sore, and may make it difficult to open wide for several days. This can occasionally be an indication of a further problem. You should notify the office if this or other concerns arise.

*Changes to your bite:* Dental restorations may alter the way your teeth fit together and make your jaw joint feel sore. This may require adjusting your bite by altering the biting surface of the crown or veneer or adjacent teeth.

*Gum disease:* The edge of the crown is usually near the gum line, which is an area prone to gum irritation, infection, or decay. Proper brushing and flossing at home, a healthy diet, and regular professional cleanings are some preventative measures essential to helping control these problems.

*Swallowing risk:* There is a risk of aspiration or swallowing the crown or veneer during treatment.

*Reaction to anesthesia:* You may receive a local anesthetic and/or other medication. In rare instances patients may have a reaction to the anesthetic, which could require emergency medical attention, or find that it reduces their ability to control swallowing. This increases the normal chance of swallowing foreign objects during treatment. Depending on the anesthesia and medications administered, you may need a designated driver to take you home. Rarely, temporary or permanent nerve injury can result from an injection.

*Medications:* All medications have the potential for accompanying risks, side effects, and drug interactions. It is critical that you tell your dentist of all medications that you are currently taking.

**Consequences If No Treatment is Administered, Are Not Limited to the Following:**

If no treatment is performed, you may continue to experience symptoms, which may increase in severity, and the cosmetic appearance of your teeth may continue to deteriorate. For teeth that have received root canal treatment, failure to place a crown could lead to pain, infection and possible the premature loss of the tooth. Decayed, cracked or broken teeth or teeth with previous inadequate restorations could continue to deteriorate, causing pain, further decay, infection, deterioration of the bone surrounding the tooth and eventually, the premature loss of teeth.

**Alternatives to Crowns or Veneers :**

Depending on the reason that a crown or veneer is placed, alternatives may exist. Ask your dentist about them and their respective expenses. Ask your dentist if your questions have not been answered to your satisfaction regarding the procedures and their risks, benefits, and costs.

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Tooth #	Initial	Date	Tooth #	Initial	Date
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Tooth #	Initial	Date	Tooth #	Initial	Date

I consent to the crown or veneer preparation and placement as described above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient's Signature Date

I attest that I have discussed the risks, benefits, consequences, and alternatives of crowns and veneers with the patient, who has had the opportunity to ask questions, and I believe my patient understands what has been explained.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dentist's Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness' Signature Date