

Cavanaugh Orthodontic Care  
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### **INFORMED CONSENT**

Generally, excellent orthodontic results can be achieved only with informed and cooperative patients. While recognizing the benefits of a pleasing smile and healthy teeth, you should be aware that orthodontic treatment, like any treatment of the body, has some inherent risks and limitations.

#### **Decalcification - Permanent Tooth Discoloration:**

Excellent oral hygiene, reduction of sugar in your diet, and reporting any loose bands or brackets as soon as they are detected are a must in minimizing decalcification, decay and gum disease.

#### **Gingival Recession - Receding Gums:**

Where teeth are severely rotated or where the surrounding bone is thin, gingival recession may occasionally occur during treatment. This may also occur if an impacted tooth is surgically exposed.

#### **Root Resorption - Shortening of Root Ends:**

This can occur with or without orthodontic treatment and its occurrence is unpredictable. Usually this presents no problem under normal, healthy conditions. It should also be noted that trauma, impactions, endocrine disorders, and idiopathic reasons can also cause this problem.

#### **Nonvital Tooth - Death of the Tooth Nerve:**

Trauma to a tooth can come from a blow or deep filling. A traumatized tooth can become nonvital over a long period of time with or without orthodontic treatment. This tooth may flare up during orthodontic movement and require endodontic treatment (a root canal).

#### **Impacted Teeth - Teeth Unable to Erupt Properly:**

These teeth have a defective path of eruption. In trying to move them or while making room for them, some problems are occasionally encountered which may lead to loss of the tooth or adjacent teeth, endodontic (root canal) treatment, or periodontal (gum) problems.

(over please)

**Lack of Patient Cooperation - Most Common Cause for Excessive Treatment Time:**

Insufficient wearing of elastics or headgear, broken appliances and missed appointments are important factors that can lengthen treatment time and adversely affect the quality of the results.

**Temporomandibular Joint Dysfunction (TMD or TMJ):**

Jaw Joint (TMJ) pain or clicking may occur at any time during one's life. The exact cause(s) are difficult to determine. Orthodontic treatment may eliminate TMJ symptoms. Conversely, some TMJ symptoms may become worse during tooth movement. Please let us know if you begin to experience any difficulties with your jaw joints. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that orthodontic treatment alone will resolve TMJ problems.

**Post Treatment Tooth Movement - Relapse:**

There is a likelihood that some teeth will shift or settle after treatment. Some of these changes are natural and may or may not be desirable. Rotation, change in the lower front teeth and slight spaces in extraction sites are the most common examples. Proper wearing of your retainer will minimize these problems. If retention is discontinued, some relapse WILL occur.

This information is not intended to discourage you from having the recommended orthodontic treatment, and it is unlikely that the above will be a problem in your treatment, but we do want you to be fully informed. I sincerely believe the many advantages to be gained from orthodontic treatment far outweigh these possible risks and limitations. If you have any questions about this information, please do not hesitate to discuss them with me.

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I consent to the taking of photographs during and after treatment, and to the use of the same by Doctor Cavanaugh in scientific papers or demonstrations.

I certify that I have read or had read to me the contents of this form and do consent to orthodontic treatment.

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Patient

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Date

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Patient's Parent or Guardian (if patient is under 18 years old and/or if parent or guardian is the responsible party for financial arrangements)

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Date