

MELVYN M. LEIFERT, D.D.S., P.C.
MICHAEL F. LEIFERT, D.D.S.
RONNIETTE C. LEIFERT, D.D.S.
DIPLOMATE AMERICAN BOARD OF ORTHODONTICS
30 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10011

PRACTICE LIMITED TO ORTHODONTICS

TEL: (212) 533-7880

FAX: (212) 533-0162

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM ORTHODONTIC THERAPY (Information for your informed consent)

Generally, malocclusion (crooked teeth) is a liability which the orthodontist is able to transform into an asset of straight teeth and a beautiful smile. This is accomplished through orthodontic appliances worn over a period of time. Excellent results can be achieved with informed, cooperative, and motivated patients.

How does it work? Orthodontic appliances allow the Orthodontist to position teeth into an as normal as possible occlusion (bite). Sometimes compromises must be made and/or teeth removed. Facial balance and growth potential are taken into consideration in treatment planning so as to give the result that is considered most beneficial functionally and esthetically for that individual.

LIMITATIONS AND POTENTIAL RISKS OF ORTHODONTIC TREATMENT

While recognizing the benefits of beautiful, healthy teeth and a pleasing smile, one should also be aware that Orthodontic treatment, like treatment in other parts of the body, has some limitations and inherent risks. These are seldom enough to contraindicate treatment but should be considered before placing orthodontic appliances.

Hard and/or sticky (gum) foods which may dislodge appliances as well as foods high in sugar content should be eliminated from the diet. Excellent oral hygiene by frequent brushing and plaque removal, and by regular professional dental recall, is more important than ever for the Orthodontic patient. Decay, decalcification (permanent markings), and gum diseases (including infection), can occur if patients fail to brush their teeth properly, thoroughly, and frequently throughout treatment.

A tooth may become non-vital or 'dead', or turn dark for no apparent reason, with or without Orthodontic treatment. Teeth that have been struck a blow in the past, chipped teeth, or deeply decayed but restored teeth, have the greatest tendency to become non-vital and may 'die' over a long period of time. A non-vital tooth is prone to infection unless endodontic (root canal) treatment is undertaken. While this is most unlikely to occur, it is a possibility.

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Re: Informed Consent

In some cases, the root ends of the teeth are rounded or shortened during treatment. This is called root resorption. Under healthy circumstances, it is of no disadvantage and is clinically insignificant, but in cases where gum disease takes place later in life, root resorption could reduce the longevity of affected teeth. It is to be noted that root resorption can be caused by a number of factors such as impactions, trauma, ectopic eruption of teeth, endocrine disorders, and idiopathic (unknown) reasons.

Problems can occur in the Temporo-mandibular joints (TMJ). Although this is not common, it is a possibility. Bite correction and tooth alignment can improve tooth related causes of TMJ discomfort or pain, but not in all cases. Stress and tension, as well as osteoarthritis, appears to play a role in the frequency and severity of joint problems.

On a rare occasion, a person who has grown normally and in average proportions may get abnormal growth causing skeletal disharmony, where original treatment objectives may have to be compromised. Skeletal growth disharmony is a biological process beyond the Orthodontist's control.

The total treatment time can be delayed beyond our estimate. Lack of adequate or coordinated facial growth, poor motivation, poor cooperation wearing elastics or headgear, poor oral hygiene, broken appliances, missed appointments or tardiness, all could lengthen treatment time and affect the quality of the final orthodontic result.

While we have listed a number of negatives, in the vast majority of cases excellent results are obtained to the satisfaction of patient, parent and Orthodontist. Thank you for reading the above material and we thank you, in advance, for your cooperation.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE MATERIAL.

Signature _____ Date _____