

Consent for Space Maintainer

What is a space maintainer and what are its benefits?

If a baby tooth is lost prematurely, neighboring teeth may shift and create problems for adult teeth trying to come in later. To minimize this problem a space maintainer is used to hold teeth in their correct positions. This is done by placing a bracing wire between two teeth to hold them apart from one another.

What are the risks?

1. Since it is a device that is affixed to teeth, diligent care must be used to keep it clean. If not, decay may form and will lead to additional dental treatment.
2. Soreness of the area shortly after it is placed
3. The space maintainer may interfere with soft tissue such as the tongue, cheek and gums.
4. The maintainer may come loose and require reseating assuming it will fit again. If not, a new one may need to be made at the regular fee.

What are my alternatives?

Not placing a space maintainer is an option but drifting of teeth may lead to crowding problems later.

INFORMED CONSENT: I can read and write English and have been given the opportunity to ask any questions regarding the nature and purpose of the proposed treatment and have received answers to my satisfaction. I do voluntarily assume any and all possible risks, including the risk of substantial harm, which may be associated with any phase of this treatment in hopes of obtaining the desired result. The fees for these services have been explained to me and I accept them as satisfactory. By signing this form, I am freely giving my consent to authorize the doctors and staff at Cross Timbers Dental in rendering any services they deem necessary or advisable to treat my dental conditions, including the administration and/or prescribing of any anesthetic agents and/or medications.

Anesthetic: The use of local anesthetic is used for pain control during dental procedures. There are inherent risks and side effects. They include, but not limited to: swelling, bruising, soreness, elevated blood pressure or pulse, allergic reaction, and altered sensation that may lead to self-injury. Partial or complete numbness may linger after the dental appointment. In rare cases it can last for an extended time and potentially it can be permanent.

Medications: Any medications dispensed or prescribed are the patient's responsibility to understand before taking. Medication inserts are available from our office upon request. Particular attention should be given to possible allergic reactions, drug interactions with current medications and their specific side effects.

Guarantees: The practice of dentistry is not an exact science and no procedure is 100% successful. The doctors and/or staff at Cross Timbers Dental have made no guarantees of a successful outcome.

Notifications: If a patient develops a problem it is the patient's responsibility to notify the doctors and/or staff of Cross Timbers Dental. Through this notification we will be able to act on the patient's behalf. Attempts to correct a problem may occur at our office or a referral to another health care practitioner may be warranted.

Patient's name (please print) _____

Signature of patient/legal guardian _____

Date _____