

INFORMED CONSENT FOR WHITENING

The Whitening System is a state-of-the-art technology designed to lighten the color of your natural teeth. It is performed under the care and supervision of DR. _____ and utilizes both a special energy source and a whitening gel developed by scientists and engineers. The actual treatment time for most cases is slightly more than an hour. The safety of professional tooth whitening in general is extremely high, and this system is no exception. Like all professional health care though, there are limitations and risks (which will be discussed below), and absolute success is variable and cannot be guaranteed.

ALTERNATIVE TREATMENT OPTIONS

While we feel this is by far the fastest, most effective means (both in terms of results and cost) to whiten our teeth, you are advised that there are other options available to you for whitening teeth. Among these options are: crowns, veneers, and at home bleaching systems.

POTENTIAL RISK/PROBLEMS

All forms of tooth whitening, have some risks and limitations. Complications that can occur in professional tooth whitening are generally infrequent though, and are usually minor in nature. If you have any questions about these potential risks/problems, please ask us before signing this consent form.

Tooth Sensitivity

During the whitening process, some patients may experience tooth sensitivity. This sensitivity is usually mild if your teeth are not normally sensitive. If your teeth are normally sensitive, please inform us before treatment so that we can make necessary adjustments. In some cases, we may suggest taking a mild analgesic before beginning the procedure. We are also able to adjust our controls during the procedure to insure your comfort. If your teeth become, or stay sensitive following the procedure, a mild analgesic such as Tylenol, Advil, or Alieve and a fluoride treatment will usually be effective in helping you feel comfortable. This sensitivity is generally short in duration.

Gum and Soft Tissue Irrigation

Temporary inflammation of the gums and other soft tissues of the mouth can occur during the procedure. This is generally the result of the whitening gel coming in contact with these tissues. Protective materials are placed in the mouth to prevent this, but despite our best efforts it can still sometimes occur. If it does, the irrigation is generally short in duration (less than two hours), and is very mild (most patients never feel it.) If it is felt, it can be relieved by rinsing with warm water and salt.

Fillings and Other Dental Restorations

Tooth colored fillings (composites), composite veneer/bonding, porcelain crowns, and/or porcelain veneers will not whiten evenly with your natural teeth during this procedure. All dental restorations that show when you smile, may need to be replaced at your expense. Please be sure to discuss this with your dentist prior to beginning treatment.