

Name:			

Today's Date	
Appt. Date	

DENTAL HISTORY

Welcome! Please complete this dental history form so that we may provide you with the best possible dental care.

All information is completely confidential.

Fragrance Free	Out of Netwo	ork Ver	ified		Referred By:		
Fragrance Free Name Address			Date	of Birth		_Email	
Address	Ci	ty		State	=	Zip	
What is the reason for	your visit today?						
Insured (if not pt)	your visit today!	mnlover			DOB	SS#	
Insurance Co		npioyer.	aroun #		Member	ID	
Insurance Co Address	C	tv	JIOUP #	State	Wellibel	7ip	
Previous Dentist Name	& Number	.,					
Date of Last Dental Vis	it? L	ast Den	ital Clea	ning	Last Full Mou	ıth X-rays	
How frequently do you how often do you brush have you ever used or What other dental aids Do you have any dental if yes, please describe:	are you currently usin do you use (Interplak, I problems now? □Y	g topical toothpides \(\Boxed{\Boxed}\) N	l fluoride ck, Wate	? □Yes □ No erpik, etc.)?			
Teeth Whitenin Cosmetic Denti Restorative trea Removable trea Snoring and Ob	ng information or inte g?stry (veneers, full mouth atment options (Crowns, atment options (Implant ostructive Sleep Apnea t eatment (braces, Invisali	reconstr Implants supporte reatment	ruction, e s, Denture d denture t options	tc)?es, etc.)?es, All-on-Four, etc.)		Yes No	
Are any of your teeth sen		3,,		Have you ever h	_		
lot or cold?		ΠVes	□ No		nt?	ΠVas	□ No
Sweets?						_	_
Biting or chewing?				• •			_
		res	140) - Lit Ji t- JO		
lave you noticed any mouth o				_	r bite adjusted?	_	
or bad taste?		Yes	No		night guard or mouth o		
o you frequently get cold sor		_	_		ne mouth or head?		
blisters or any other oral les				If yes, please descri	be, including cause _		
o your gums bleed or hurt?		Yes	No				
lave your parents experience				Have you experi			
disease or tooth loss?		Yes	No	Clicking or popping	of the jaw?	Yes	No
lave you noticed any loose te	eth or			Pain (joint, ear, side	of face)?	Yes	No
change in your bite?		Yes	No		or closing the mouth?		
loes food tend to become cau		_	_	Difficulty in chewing		_	
between your teeth?		□Yes	No		?	TYes	□ No
yes, where?					ches, or shoulder ach	_	_
,					, shoulders)?		
o you:				Are you satisfied wit			
Clench or grind your teeth whil	le .				e?	ΠYas	□ No
awake or asleep?		□Vec	□ No		eep all of your teeth		
Bite your lips or cheeks regula	arly2	UVoc	I No	•		□vaa	□ No
nte your rips or crieeks regula	tooth	res		Do you feel nervous	about having		140
fold foreign objects with your			□ N-	•	•	□v	N
(pencils, pipe, pins, nails, fir							INO
Nouth breathe while awake or					ggest concern?		
lave tired jaws, especially in t		_		Have you ever had a	-		
Snore or have any other sleep	•	Yes	No		?		
Smoke/chew tobacco or other		_	_	If yes, please descri	be		
tobacco products?		Yes	No				
lave you ever been told to	take a pre-medication p	ior to de	ntal treati	ment? Yes	No		
s there anything else ab	out having dental trea	tment th	nat you v	vould like us to kno	ow? Yes] No	
tues please describe	•		,			-	



MEDICAL HISTORY

Todays Date _____

Name	Marital Status	Sex	_		
Address			Email Home/Cell Phone		
Street	City	Zip	Work Phone		
Former Dentist		How Long? _			
Name	Phone				
PhysicianName Add	dress Phor	20			
Referred By: Employed By:					
Have you had any medical care or surgerie	s within the past two years?				□ No
Describe					
 Are you currently taking any medication, of the second seco			ar dosages of aspirin?	' Ll Yes	□ No
3. Do you use Tobacco/Nicotine in any form?	□Smoke □Chewing	□F-cigs/Vane	□Other Form	□Yes	□ No
Have you ever taken bone loss prevention of the second secon				_	☐ No
5. Have you EVER had an ADVERSE or ALL				_	☐ No
If Yes, please specify					
Have you ever been diagnosed and/or treat	ted for Sleep Apnea?			Yes	☐ No
Do you have any of the following symptoms		☐Snoring ☐Wa	king Gasping for Air		
8. Indicate which of the following you have h					
_ ` _	Kidney Problems		atitis A, B, C	Пүе	es 🗆 No
	Γhyroid Problems		S/HIV Positive	=	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Diabetes	=	Sores/Fever Blisters	□Y€	es 🔲 No
Congenital Heart Problems 🔲 Yes 🔲 No 🕠	Glaucoma	Yes 🔲 No Dry I	Mouth	TY6	es 🔲 No
High/Low Blood Pressure ☐Yes ☐ No I	Emphysema \square	Yes 🔲 No Diffic	culty Swallowing	Ye	es 🔲 No
	Tuberculosis		ophilia/Bleeding Disorde		
	Asthma 🔲`	=	Disease	=	
	Hay Fever/Allergy/Hives		ological Disorders	=	
	_atex Sensitivity/Allergy	=	eimers or Dementia	=	
	Sinus Trouble		epsy or Seizures	=	
	Radiation Therapy		ting or Dizzy Spells		
	Chemotherapy	Yes No Nerv	ous/Anxioushiatric/Psychological	Ц те	S LINC
	Autoimmune Disease	Ves D No Ca	ire		as \square No
9. Do you have or have you had any disease,	condition, or problem not list	ed? Yes			;5 <u> </u>
If Yes, please specify					
10. Women: Are you Pregnant or think you cou	Id be pregnant? LYes,	_ Months	Nursing? ☐ Yes	∐ No	
I understand the above information is necessions to the best of my knowledge. She care provider or agency, who may release s	ould further information be ne	eeded, you have my	permission to ask the	respective	e health
Patient/Guardian Signature			Date		
Comments:					
Provider Signature			Da	ite	

OFFICE FINANCIAL POLICY

Thank you for choosing us as your family's dental health care provider. We are committed to providing your family with ideal treatment. It is our goal for patients to clearly understand their treatment needs and financial responsibilities. The following is a statement of our financial policy which we require you read, agree to, and sign; prior to any treatment. This financial policy applies to all services rendered by the doctor or dental hygienists.

In order to avoid any misunderstandings, we would like to make you aware of our financial policy:

- ❖ Due to the high demand for appointments a <u>48-hour business day notice</u> is required to cancel any office appointment. This must be done with a member of our staff and not by text, email or answering machine. Failure to give our office 48-hour business day notice may result in a minimum charge of \$75.00.
- ❖ Payment is expected in full for each visit.
- ❖ We accept payment in cash, check, or credit card (Master Card/Visa/Discover)
- ❖ We also offer a financing plan called "Care Credit".
- ❖ All other financial arrangements must be made in writing.
- There will be a charge for returned checks.

If you have Dental Insurance

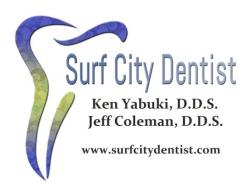
It is our policy that the patient, rather than the insurance company, is responsible for the complete payment of our services. Your insurance policy is a contract between you, your employer, and your insurance company. We are not party to that contract. Our relationship is with you, not your insurance company. As a courtesy to our patients, we will accept assignment of insurance benefits. All patients with insurance coverage are responsible for payment of non-covered services, any deductible amount not previously met and any co-payment due, at the time services are rendered. We will bill your insurance when you have supplied us with all of the necessary information required to process your claim.

In order to avoid any misunderstandings, we would like to make you aware of our insurance policy

- ❖ If your insurance company has not paid our office within 45 days from the time of service, you will be required to pay the balance in full by one of the payment options stated above. Any balance over 60 days will accrue a 1.5% finance charge and any account past due over 90 days is subject to legal proceedings. All necessary collection charges will be the responsibility of the patient.
- ❖ We are **not an HMO provider**. We ask that the patient be aware of their plan and its coverage **prior** to their appointment.
- ❖ We are a Delta Dental PPO and Premiere provider but we are considered an **out-of-network** provider with all other insurance companies.
- ❖ Our estimate of the insurance coverage is not a guarantee of what the insurance company will pay.

If there are any questions concerning these policies, please ask.

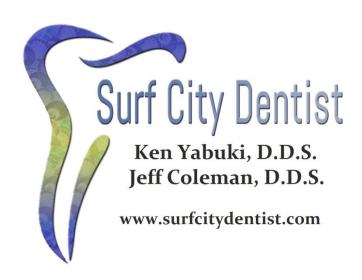
I,	1	have read and understand the financial policy.	
Signature	Date	_	
(Print Name)		S.S.#	



SLEEP EVALUATION

Todays Date _____

Name							
Date of Birth		F	Height	:	_ Weigl	nt:	
	Please check any o	of the following	you may	y have:			
☐ Diabetes ☐ Stroke ☐ Depression ☐ Gerd (Acid Reflux)	☐ Bruxims (teeth grinding Dese (BMI >30) ☐ Hypertension (High E☐ Snoring	s (teeth grinding) (BMI >30) (BMI Blood Pressure) Erectile Dysfunction Frequent Urination at Night Morning Headaches					
	Please check YES of	NO to the follo	wina au	estions:			
 Do you snore or have you bee Do you often feel tired, fatigue Has anyone observed you sto Do you have or are you being 	n told that you snore?d, or sleepy during the daytim b breathing or gasp for air dur	e?ing your sleep?.				☐ YES☐ YES	□ NO □ NO □ NO □ NO
	If you answered YES to 2 o	r more of the a	bove, pl	ease contin			
Epw	orth Sleepiness Scale			Never Doze Off	Slight Chance of Dozing	Moderate Chance of Dozing	High Chance of Dozing
 While sitting and reading? While watching TV? While sitting inactive in a publi As a passenger in a car for an Lying down to rest in the after Sitting and talking to someone Sitting quietly after lunch withon In a car while stopped for a few 	c place?			0 0 0 0 0 0 0 Total Sco	1 1 1 1 1 1 ore:	2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3
Have you ever been diagnosed w Are you currently using CPAP (or Are you currently taking any sleet Are you aware of clenching or gri	ith Sleep Apnea? any other apnea/snoring devi oing aids (prescribed or OTC)	ice)??				☐ YES☐ YES	NO NO NO NO
Patient/Guardian Sig Comments:	nature				Dat	te	
Provider Signature _					[)ate	



Patient Acknowledgment of Receipt of Dental Materials Fact Sheet and Notice of Privacy Practices

As of January 1, 2002, the Dental Board of California now requires that we distribute to our patients a copy of the Dental Materials Fact Sheet. In addition, the Heath Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requires effective April 14, 2003 that patients be given a copy of our Notice of Privacy Practice.

If you would, please print and sign your name below.

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION.

PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY

We provide this notice to comply with the Privacy Regulations issued by the Department of Health and Human Services in accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1995 (HIPAA)

* This **NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES** describes the privacy policies and procedures we adhere to and extends to all healthcare providers and dental office employees for:

<u>Ken Yabuki, DDS</u> <u>18800 MAIN ST., STE 210</u> HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA 92648 (714)847-7733

ABOUT YOUR

PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION (PHI):

- PHI includes any individually identifiable health information transmitted or maintained by our office in any form or medium (electronically, on paper or orally).
- PHI is protected by law and provides penalties for healthcare providers that misuse or disclose it to unauthorized persons.
- Employment records maintained by a covered entity in its capacity as an employer are excluded from the definition of PH.

The protection of your PHI is something our dental office takes very seriously.

ABOUT THIS

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES: (NOTICE)

We are required by law to:

- Give you a copy of this **NOTICE** when you sign a <u>Patient Consent Form</u>.
- Post the Notice in a prominent place and on our Website, if we have one.
- Make the Notice available to patients upon request.
- Provide you with a "revised" Notice, if we make material changes to our Notice and will do so at your next office visit after the changes to the Notice have been made.
- Follow the policies and conditions of the Notice that is currently in effect.

We reserve the right to:

- Change our Notice at any time.
- Make revisions and changes to our <u>Notice</u> effective for PHI already in our system as well as for PHI we obtain from our patients in subsequent visits.

ABOUT USES AND DISCLOSURES OF YOUR PHI:

We may use and disclose your PHI:

- **For TREATMENT**: Means providing, coordinating, or managing healthcare and related services by one or more healthcare providers. For example, we may use PHI we receive from your previous dentist to help determine a treatment plan for your current care.
- For PAYMENT: Means such activities as obtaining reimbursement for dental services, billing or collection activities, confirming insurance coverage. For example, we may use and disclose your PHI to obtain payment for dental treatment.
- For HEALTHCARE OPERATIONS: Include the business aspects of running our practice, such as conducting quality assessment and improvement activities, employee training, auditing functions, cost-management analysis, and customer service. For example, we might hire a dental consultant to review our scheduling procedures. We may disclose PHI for treatment and payment activities of other covered entity or a health care provider, and for certain health care operations of another covered entity.
- When REQUIRED BY THE FEDERAL, STATE OR LOCAL LAW: When requires by the U.S.
 Department of Health and Human Services as part of an investigation or determination of facilities compliance with relevant laws.
- TO YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS: If you agree, we may disclose your PHI to a family member, friend or another person to the extent necessary to help with your healthcare or with payment for your healthcare. For example, if another person was paying for your dental treatment, you might ask us to explain the treatment to that person.
- PERSONS INVOLVED IN YOUR CARE: Unless you object, we may disclose to a member of the family, a close friend or any other person you identify, your PHI as it relates to the person's involvement in your healthcare. If you are unable to agree or object to disclose, we may disclose such information as necessary if we determine that is in your best interest based on our professional judgment. We may use or disclose your PHI to assist in notifying a family member, personal representative or any other person that is responsible for your care of your location, general condition, or death.
- APPOINTMENT REMINDERS AND OTHER USES: Your PHI may be used to remind you by phone, computer, or mail of a dental appointment. For example, we may leave a message containing PHI on your answering machine. Or, we may include PHI on recall cards sent to your home or mail you information regarding alternative dental treatment options or related services. We will send you recall notices.
- MARKETING/SOCIAL MEDIA: We will not disclose your PHI for marketing communications without
 written authorization. Our practice may not mention or discuss patient treatment or other information about
 patients on any social media outlet unless written authorized consent is provided by said patient and the
 privacy officer. Practice workforce may not engage with a patient's post on a third-part website unless
 authorized to do so by the privacy officer.
- **EMERGENCY SITUATIONS**: To assist in disaster relief efforts or during a medical emergency.
- **RESEARCH:** To researchers when their research has been approved by an institutional review board that has reviewed the research proposal and protocols to ensure the privacy of your PHI.
- PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCIES: To report disease, injury, vital events and to conduct public health surveillance, investigation and or intervention. To a health oversight agency for oversight activities authorized by law including audits, investigations, inspections, licensure and/or accreditation or disciplinary actions, administrative and/or legal proceedings. To prevent or lessen a serious threat to the health or safety of another person or the public and as authorized by laws relating to workers' compensation or similar programs. To the coroner, medical examiner or funeral director, to an organ donations and procurement organization if you are a donor.
- <u>LAWSUITS, DISPUTES, INVESTIGATIONS AND GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES</u>: We may disclose your PHI if required to do so by a court order, administrative order, subpoena or discovery request by you or

another individual involved in the dispute and in the course of certain judicial or administrative proceedings and to federal officials for the intelligence and national security activities authorized by law.

LAW ENFORCEMENT: To law enforcement agencies or for specialized governmental functions. For example, for the identification of victims of a crime, to identification of victims of a crime, to identify or locate a suspect, material witness, missing person, fugitive, or in response to a court order, warrant, summons or subpoena.

MILITARY: Our practice may disclose your PHI if you are a member of U.S. or foreign military forces (including veterans) and if required by the appropriate authorities to do so.

- **INMATES:** If you are an inmate of a correctional institution and if the institution is going to provide care for you. Or, to protect the health and safety of the inmate or others or to protect the health and safety of the institution.
- FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION: (FDA) Covered entities may disclose PHI, without authorization, to a person subject to the jurisdiction of the FDA for public health purposes related to the quality, safety or effectiveness of FDA-regulated products or activities such as collecting or reporting adverse events, dangerous products, and defects or problems with FDA-regulated products.
- **ANY OTHER USES:** Will be made <u>only</u> with your written authorization.

ABOUT PATIENT RIGHTS:

As a patient **YOU** have the right to:

- Obtain a copy of this notice, even if you agreed to accept it electronically.
- Request that we communicate with you in a particular manner or at a certain location. For example, you may request we contact you only at home by phone and not by fax machine.
- Confidentiality.
 - Restrict how your PHI is used or disclosed and to whom we may disclose it.
 - Requests to restrict and limit PHI must be in writing;
 - We are not required to agree to your request.
 - We will abide by the written consent form you sign and by local, state and federal law.

You have the right to:

- Request an "accounting of Disclosures of your PHI" for yourself or persons you have the legal guardianship over.
- Request Form available at front desk.

REQUESTS MUST BE IN WRITING AND INCLUDE:

- The form of disclosure is requested in. For Example, photocopies or disk.
- A time period (not more than six years back and not before April 14, 2003)
- How you want to be contacted once the request is fulfilled.

WE MAY CHARGE A FEE FOR REQUESTS:

- A fee will be estimated and communicated to you <u>prior</u> to fulfilling your request.
- You may accept or reject your request at that time.

PATIENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO PROVIDE AUTHORIZATION FOR OTHER USES AND **DISCLOSURES:**

- Our practice will obtain your written authorization for uses and disclosures that are not identified by this NOTICE OR PERMITTED BY APPLICABLE LAW. For example, we may ask for authorization to use your name or other PHI in an advertisement about our practice.
- You have the right to **revoke**, at any time and in writing, any authorization you provide us regarding the use and disclosure of your PHI.
- After you revoke your authorization, we will no longer use or disclose your PHI for the reasons described in the authorization.
- Please Note: We are required by law to retain records of your care.

PATIENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO ACCESS, INSPECT AND/OR COPY PHI:

- Including medical and billing records for themselves and persons under their custodial or legal guardianship (with proof of that legal relationship)
- Information contained in a "designated record set", medical billing and any other records that we use to help make decisions about your healthcare.
- Access must be provided within five (5) working days of receipt of written request.
- Photocopies must be provided within ten (10) working days of receipt of written request.
- Under federal law you may not inspect or copy:
 - 1. Psychotherapy notes;
 - 2. information compiled in reasonable anticipation of, or use in, a civil, criminal, or administrative proceeding:
 - 3. PHI that is subject to law that prohibits access to PHI.
 - In some circumstance, you have the right to have the decision to deny reviewed.

PHI may be requested in a format other than photocopies;

- Requests must be in writing. (Ask for a Form at the front desk)
- Or, make a request by letter addressed to our Office Privacy Contact Person (OCP) at the address on the front of this NOTICE.

A cost-based fee may be charged for this service:

- \$.20 per copy will be charged for photocopies;
- Plus \$15.00 per hour for employee time to locate and duplicate data;
- Plus postage, if you want your health information mailed to you.
- Fees for this service are due at time of delivery of copies.
- PHI requested in a format other than photocopies will be provided on a cost-based fee and a case-by-case basis. (Cost of tape, disk, etc., plus labor) For details see OCP.

We may, in limited circumstances, deny your request to inspect and copy.

- You have the right to challenge our denial.
- A patient challenge to denial will be presented to a dentist (or committee) other than the Dentist issuing the denial, for review. After a review, a finding and decision will be made. Our office will abide by the decision of the Dentist making the review.

Patients have the right to Request PHI be Amended:

- If you believe your PHI is wrong or incomplete.
- This right extends too you for the period of time our office maintains your PHI.
- Request forms available at the front desk.
- Requests to Amend PHI if:
 - o A reason that supports why you believe the PHI is incorrect/incomplete
 - The date
 - o Your signature
- We may deny your request to Amend PHI if:

- 1. You fail to submit the Request in writing
- 2. And/or fail to include a reason to support the request;
- 3. If the information you asked to amend was not created by us, unless the person or entity that created the information is no longer available to make amendment;
- 4. The information you requested is not part of your PHI kept by our office, or not information which you would be permitted to inspect and copy; or the PHI information is inaccurate and incomplete.

ABOUT COMPLAINTS

Patients have the right to complain:

- o If you feel that your privacy rights have been violated, you have the right to file a formal, written complaint with us at the address on the front of the <u>NOTICE</u>, or with the DHS, Office of Civil Rights.
- o Complaints to us will be turned over immediately to our Privacy Officer, the owner of the dental practice.
- o Complaints must be in writing.
- o Complaints forms available at the front desk.
- o All complaints shall be investigated thoroughly by our Privacy Officer.
- o You may not be penalized for making a complaint.

Address Complaints To:

Our Dental Practice
Attention: Privacy Officer
At address on the front of this NOTICE

And/or: DHS

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Office of Civil Rights 200 Independence Ave, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20201 (877)696-6775 (toll-free)

Dear Patient,

Thank you for allowing us the privilege of providing your dental care. The security of your protected health information is an obligation and duty every member of our dental team takes very seriously.

You have our pledge to be worthy of your trust.

Sincerely,

The Dental Team

Dental Materials – Advantages & Disadvantages

PORCELAIN FUSED TO METAL

This type of porcelain is a glasslike material that is "enameled" on top of metal shells. It is toothcolored and is used for crowns and fixed bridges

Advantages

- Good resistance to further decay if the restoration fits well
- Very durable, due to metal substructure
- The material does not cause tooth sensitivity
- Resists leakage because it can be shaped for a very accurate fit

Disadvantages

- More tooth must be removed (than for porcelain) for the metal substructure
- Higher cost because it requires at least two office visits and laboratory services

GOLD ALLOY

Gold alloy is a gold-colored mixture of gold, copper, and other metals and is used mainly for crowns and fixed bridges and some partial denture frameworks

Advantages

- Good resistance to further decay if the restoration fits well
- Excellent durability; does not fracture under stress
- Does not corrode in the mouth
- Minimal amount of tooth needs to be removed
- Wears well; does not cause excessive wear to opposing teeth
- Resists leakage because it can be shaped for a very accurate fit

Disadvantages

- Is not tooth colored; alloy is yellow
- Conducts heat and cold; may irritate sensitive teeth
- High cost; requires at least two office visits and laboratory services

DENTAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

1432 Howe Avenue • Sacramento, California 95825

www.dbc.ca.gov

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The Facts About Fillings

Reprinted in 2019

The Facts About Fillings



DENTAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

1432 Howe Avenue • Sacramento, California 95825

www.dbc.ca.gov



What About the Safety of Filling Materials?

Patient health and the safety of dental treatments are the primary goals of California's dental professionals and the Dental Board of California. The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide you with information concerning the risks and benefits of all the dental materials used in the restoration (filling) of teeth.

The Dental Board of California is required by law* to make this dental materials fact sheet available to every licensed dentist in the state of California. Your dentist, in turn, must provide this fact sheet to every new patient and all patients of record only once before beginning any dental filling procedure.

As the patient or parent/guardian, you are strongly encouraged to discuss with your dentist the facts presented concerning the filling materials being considered for your particular treatment.

* Business and Professions Code 1648.10-1648.20

Allergic Reactions to Dental Materials

Components in dental fillings may have side effects or cause allergic reactions, just like other materials we may come in contact with in our daily lives. The risks of such reactions are very low for all types of filling materials. Such reactions can be caused by specific components of the filling materials such as mercury, nickel, chromium, and/or beryllium alloys. Usually, an allergy will reveal itself as a skin rash and is easily reversed when the individual is not in contact with the material.

There are no documented cases of allergic reactions to composite resin, glass ionomer, resin ionomer, or porcelain. However, there have been rare allergic responses reported with dental amalgam, porcelain fused to metal, gold alloys, and nickel or cobalt-chrome alloys.

If you suffer from allergies, discuss these potential problems with your dentist before a filling material is chosen.

PORCELAIN (CERAMIC)

Porcelain is a glass-like material formed into fillings or crowns using models of the prepared teeth. The material is tooth-colored and is used in inlays, veneers, crowns and fixed bridges.

Advantages

- Very little tooth needs to be removed for use as a veneer; more tooth needs to be removed for a crown because its strength is related to its bulk (size)
- Good resistance to further decay if the restoration fits well
- Is resistant to surface wear but can cause some wear on opposing teeth
- Resists leakage because it can be shaped for a very accurate fit
- The material does not cause tooth sensitivity

Disadvantages

- Material is brittle and can break under biting forces
- May not be recommended for molar teeth
- Higher cost because it requires at least two office visits and laboratory services

NICKEL OR COBALT-CHROME ALLOYS

Nickel or cobalt-chrome alloys are mixtures of nickel and chromium. They are a dark silver metal color and are used for crowns and fixed bridges and most partial denture frameworks.

Advantages

- Good resistance to further decay if the restoration fits well
- Excellent durability; does not fracture under stress
- Does not corrode in the mouth
- Minimal amount of tooth needs to be removed
- Resists leakage because it can be shaped for a very accurate fit

Disadvantages

- Is not tooth colored; alloy is a dark silver metal color
- Conducts heat and cold; may irritate sensitive teeth
- Can be abrasive to opposing teeth
- High cost; requires at least two office visits and laboratory services
- Slightly higher wear to opposing teeth



The Facts About Fillings 7

GLASS IONOMER CEMENT

Glass ionomer cement is a self-hardening mixture of glass and organic acid. It is tooth-colored and varies in translucency. Glass ionomer is usually used for small fillings, cementing metal and porcelain/metal crowns, liners, and temporary restorations.

Advantages

- Reasonably good esthetics
- May provide some help against decay because it releases fluoride
- Minimal amount of tooth needs to be removed and it bonds well to both the enamel and the dentin beneath the enamel
- Material has low incidence of producing tooth sensitivity
- Usually completed in one dental visit

Disadvantages

- Cost is very similar to composite resin (which costs more than amalgam)
- Limited use because it is not recommended for biting surfaces in permanent teeth
- As it ages, this material may become rough and could increase the accumulation of plaque and chance of periodontal disease
- Does not wear well; tends to crack over time and can be dislodged

RESIN-IONOMER CEMENT

Resin ionomer cement is a mixture of glass and resin polymer and organic acid that hardens with exposure to a blue light used in the dental office. It is tooth colored but more translucent than glass ionomer cement. It is most often used for small fillings, cementing metal and porcelain metal crowns and liners.

Advantages

- Very good esthetics
- May provide some help against decay because it releases fluoride
- Minimal amount of tooth needs to be removed and it bonds well to both the enamel and the dentin beneath the enamel
- Good for non-biting surfaces
- May be used for short-term primary teeth restorations
- May hold up better than glass ionomer but not as well as composite
- Good resistance to leakage
- Material has low incidence of producing tooth sensitivity
- Usually completed in one dental visit

Disadvantages

- Cost is very similar to composite resin (which costs more than amalgam)
- Limited use because it is not recommended to restore the biting surfaces of adults
- Wears faster than composite and amalgam

Toxicity of Dental Materials

Dental Amalgam

Mercury in its elemental form is on the State of California's Proposition 65 list of chemicals known to the state to cause reproductive toxicity. Mercury may harm the developing brain of a child or fetus.

Dental amalgam is created by mixing elemental mercury (43-54%) and an alloy powder (46-57%) composed mainly of silver, tin, and copper. This has caused discussion about the risks of mercury in dental amalgam. Such mercury is emitted in minute amounts as vapor. Some concerns have been raised regarding possible toxicity. Scientific research continues on the safety of dental amalgam. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there is scant evidence that the health of the vast majority of people with amalgam is compromised.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and other public health organizations have investigated the safety of amalgam used in dental fillings. The conclusion: no valid scientific evidence has shown that amalgams cause harm to patients with dental restorations, except in rare cases of allergy. The World Health Organization reached a similar conclusion stating, "Amalgam restorations are safe and cost effective."

A diversity of opinions exists regarding the safety of dental amalgams. Questions have been raised about its safety in pregnant women, children, and diabetics. However, scientific evidence and research literature in peer-reviewed scientific journals suggest that otherwise healthy women, children, and diabetics are not at an increased risk from dental amalgams in their mouths. The FDA places no restrictions on the use of dental amalgam.

Composite Resin

Some Composite Resins include Crystalline Silica, which is on the State of California's Proposition 65 list of chemicals known to the state to cause cancer.

It is always a good idea to discuss any dental treatment thoroughly with your dentist.

6 amalgam

DENTAL AMALGAM FILLINGS

Dental amalgam is a self-hardening mixture of silver-tin-copper alloy powder and liquid mercury and is sometimes referred to as silver fillings because of its color. It is often used as a filling material and replacement for broken teeth.

Advantages

- Durable; long lasting
- Wears well; holds up well to the forces of biting
- Relatively inexpensive
- Generally completed in one visit
- Self-sealing; minimal-to-no shrinkage and resists leakage
- Resistance to further decay is high, but can be difficult to find in early stages
- Frequency of repair and replacement is low

Disadvantages

- Refer to "What About the Safety of Filling Materials"
- Gray colored, not tooth colored
- May darken as it corrodes; may stain teeth over time
- Requires removal of some healthy tooth
- In larger amalgam fillings, the remaining tooth may weaken and fracture
- Because metal can conduct hot and cold temperatures, there may be a temporary sensitivity to hot and cold.
- Contact with other metals may cause occasional, minute electrical flow

The durability of any dental restoration is influenced not only by the material it is made from but also by the dentist's technique when placing the restoration. Other factors include the supporting materials used in the procedure and the patient's cooperation during the procedure. The length of time a restoration will last is dependent upon your dental hygiene, home care, and diet and chewing habits.

COMPOSITE RESIN FILLINGS

Composite fillings are a mixture of powdered glass and plastic resin, sometimes referred to as white, plastic, or tooth-colored fillings. It is used for fillings, inlays, veneers, partial and complete crowns, or to repair portions of broken teeth.

Advantages

- Strong and durable
- Tooth colored
- Single visit for fillings
- Resists breaking
- Maximum amount of tooth preserved
- Small risk of leakage if bonded only to enamel
- Does not corrode
- Generally holds up well to the forces of biting depending on product used
- Resistance to further decay is moderate and easy to find
- Frequency of repair or replacement is low to moderate

Disadvantages

- Refer to "What About the Safety of Filling Materials"
- Moderate occurrence of tooth sensitivity; sensitive to dentist's method of application
- Costs more than dental amalgam
- Material shrinks when hardened and could lead to further decay and/or temperature sensitivity
- Requires more than one visit for inlays, veneers, and crowns
- May wear faster than dental enamel
- May leak over time when bonded beneath the layer of enamel



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