X-RAY INFORMED CONSENT

1. The procedure
   1. Sometimes, our patients become concerned when we advise that x-rays examinations are needed. They wonder whether x-rays are indeed necessary. Of what benefit they will be, and if they will jeopardize their health.
   2. These concerns are unnecessary, as long as the radiographs are performed only when needed, using sound techniques with modern equipment and safeguards.
2. The reason for x-rays
   1. X-ray examinations are necessary to detect, diagnose and treat conditions that may be impossible to identify until too late. Such as
      1. Tooth decay between teeth/under gums
      2. Decay under old fillings
      3. Bone loss that occurs in periodontal gum disease
      4. Impacted teeth
      5. Missing permanent teeth in children
      6. Extra teeth
      7. Tooth or bone abnormalities
      8. Fractured or retained rooms
      9. Sinus infections
      10. Tartar (hardened plaque)
      11. Abscesses
      12. Cysts or tumors
      13. Cancer of the jaw
3. Alternatives
   1. There are no alternatives for x-rays
4. Inherent risks
   1. X-rays are a form of energy which is somewhat like sunlight. Like the sunlight, x-rays have no mass (substance), they are only energy. When we get too much of any type of energy, it can have harmful effects. i.e. too much sun= sunburn or skin cancer
   2. A milliard is a measurement of radiation or energy. The measurement of total body radiation permitted by most state and federal regulations for people with an occupational risk of exposure is 5,000 millirads per year. Our office used modern techniques and materials which make the risk of harmful effects from dental x-rays negligible.
      1. For example, if a leaded apron is worn during a full mouth series of radiographs, the reproductive system of both men and women will receive near 0 millirads of radiation. For a single bitewing radiograph, the dose to the thyroid is about 3 millirads. In fact, most Americans receive more radiation in a year from watching television than from dental x-rays.

* 1. Some of the techniques and materials we use to keep you safe are:
     1. High speed film- shortening exposure time
     2. Filter
     3. Collimation which keeps the x-ray beam narrow to limit the exposure area
     4. Shielded open-ended cones to reduce scatter
     5. Precise timers
     6. Leaded aprons and collars

1. Consequences of not receiving needed x-rays
   1. Failure to allow Dr. Davis to take needed x-rays may result in:
      1. Undetected decay which may lead to an infected nerve
      2. Unnecessary root canals or extractions in the future
      3. Undetected periodontal disease
      4. Undetected impacted teeth
      5. Undetected abscesses
      6. Undetected cysts and tumors
      7. Undetected bone cancer
   2. Early diagnosis and treatment of the conditions in section B can save you time, money and unnecessary discomfort. If a hidden tumor is detected, early identification and treatment might even save your life.

My signature below indicates that I have read and understood the contents of this letter. I have been informed of the risks and the consequences of not receiving proper x-rays including undetected cancer of the jaws.

Patient signature

Witness signature