Surgical-Orthodontic Treatment

Supplemental Informed Consent

Your orthodontist has recommended orthognathic (jaw) surgery in conjunction with orthodontic treatment to address skeletal discrepancies of the upper, lower, or both jaws as well as assist in the correction of your (or your child's) malocclusion (bite problem). Orthognathic surgery is typically advised when the movement of the teeth required exceeds what can be achieved by orthodontics alone, is likely to push teeth beyond their limits in terms of health, stability, and/or esthetics, or when more significant changes to facial appearance are desired.

It is strongly recommended that you complete a consultation with a specialist in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery before starting orthodontic treatment. At this consultation, you should be provided with information on the surgical procedure(s) indicated, risks and benefits of surgery, and expectations for recovery following surgery. The surgeon will also discuss your responsibilities as a patient/parent and his/her fee, which will be in addition to the fee for orthodontic treatment. Your surgeon will need to work closely with your orthodontist to develop and execute the best possible treatment plan for you.

In many cases, surgical-orthodontic treatment will require a multi-stage approach, starting with a pre-surgical phase of orthodontic treatment called "decompensation" to place each tooth as ideally as possible within the individual jaws. **This "decompensation" phase will almost always cause your bite to worsen (which is intended); decompensation facilitates the appropriate surgical correction to properly fit the upper and lower teeth together and/or result in the best facial esthetics. Certain irreversible steps, such as the removal of permanent teeth, may be necessary for the proper orthodontic pre-surgical preparation.** After decompensation, the second phase involves the surgery itself, which is followed by a final phase of orthodontic treatment to fine-tune individual tooth positions.

In other cases, a two-stage approach may be recommended with surgery as the first step to be followed by orthodontic treatment to finish aligning and fitting the teeth together. **The first phase of surgery may also make your bite worse until the orthodontics can be completed.**

Once committed to a surgical-orthodontic treatment plan, it becomes difficult, if not impossible, to switch to a non-surgical treatment plan. The orthodontic tooth movement necessary to prepare for orthognathic surgery is often the reverse of what would be performed for non-surgical orthodontic treatment.

If for any reason you are unable to proceed with the planned orthognathic surgery portion of your treatment or the orthodontic treatment after surgery, you will likely end up with a bite that is worse than what you had before any treatment.

Additional treatment fees may be incurred if you decide not to move forward with your planned orthognathic surgery and your treatment time is extended as a result.

I have read and understand the above. I have discussed this form with my orthodontist and have had the opportunity to ask questions. I have been presented with alternative treatment option(s) not involving orthognathic surgery and understand the objectives and limitations of each option.

Additional Comments:

Patient Name (Printed): _____ **Date:** _____

Patient Signature (Signed): _____ **Date:** _____