

Informed Consent for Treatment of a Serious Dental Infection

You have a very **serious dental infection** that could possibly cause you to be admitted to the hospital. Staying in an Intensive Care Unit, even for a few days, is very expensive. Your dental infection could spread and block off your throat. This could prevent you from breathing and kill you. It is a serious situation.

First of all, you must exactly follow the dentist's instructions.

Take your antibiotics exactly the way you were instructed.

Get your antibiotic prescription immediately and begin taking your antibiotics immediately. Most antibiotics are taken every six (6) hours. It is okay to sleep eight (8) hours and take your antibiotic just before going to bed and again when you wake up. Antibiotics are usually best taken on an empty stomach so do not eat an hour before going to bed and do not eat an hour after waking up and taking your antibiotic.

Unfortunately, some bad dental infections do not respond to normal antibiotics. Your dental infection may grow out of control so it's very important that you keep taking your antibiotics and return to this office again in three (3) days. It is not unusual for it to take three days for antibiotics to work. If your dental infection still continues to grow in three days, after examining you, we will change the antibiotic prescription.

Rest and eat well.

Your situation is serious so you must take it seriously. **You are not allowed to go back to work or school for the next few days.** If you wish, we can give you a *written excuse*. Your body has to fight this dental infection and you need your strength. Many patients do not want to eat because it's hard to move their mouths. However, you have to eat every few hours. Eat oatmeal, scrambled eggs, protein shakes, ice cream, soup and/or anything else that you can.

Have someone take care of you or observe you.

It is good to have someone else help you remember everything you have to do. If you begin having serious problems and can't respond, the other person will also help.

The Atlanta Dental Group PC is not open 24 hours a day and we do not maintain a twenty four hour emergency service. You can call **404-874-7428** during our extended office hours but we prefer that you come back to the office if you would like to be reexamined and reevaluated.

If you are concerned and are not able to reach this office,

**Go to a hospital emergency room if your throat begins to block off,
if you can't swallow and/or
if you are having difficulty breathing.**

It often takes seven (7) to ten (10) or more days for a serious infection to completely go away. Just because you get better in the first few days does not mean that everything is okay. You must continue to take your antibiotics until the infection is gone and take good care of yourself. You still have a dead tooth or other serious dental condition that has not been treated.

You must return to have the dead tooth or infected wisdom tooth treated. This may involve having a dental extraction (*a tooth pulled*) or root canal treatment. If you do not return for appropriate treatment, your **dental infection will return again** and probably be much more serious the next time it happens. Do not fool around with your life!

The staff at the Atlanta Dental Group PC have full informed me of my current situation and I fully understand the seriousness. I take complete responsibility for appropriately caring for myself.

Patient Signature: _____ Date: _____

Staff Signature: _____ Date: _____

Atlanta Dental Group PC 1624 Piedmont Avenue, NE Atlanta, Georgia 30324 (404) 874-7428
www.atlantadentist.com