

Bilateral Mandibular Block Release Form

You have been given a choice of having dental work done on both sides of your lower jaw at the same appointment. This will probably involve getting two or more shots of anesthetic, called a **bilateral mandibular block**. To help you make a decision as to whether this procedure is right for you, please read the following information. As always, we'll be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Because of the high density of the lower jaw bone, dentists or hygienists must anesthetize all of the lower left teeth or right teeth by making one or more injections to one large branch nerve. This nerve not only connects to every single tooth on one side of your lower jaw but also connects to that side of your lip, that side of your tongue, and often that side of your cheek. Basically, your whole lower side of your face will be numb. When this happens, it is very easy to ***accidentally bite your lip, tongue and/or cheek while eating and/or talking***. This may occur with the patient totally unaware of the damage until the anesthesia wears off, leaving a painful bite, gash or hole. The most common anesthetic lasts from an hour and a half to up to three hours, on some individuals, even longer.

With bilateral mandibular blocks, both sides of your lower jaw is made numb and now ***it is possible to chew or bite all of your lower lip, all of your tongue, and all of the inside of your cheeks***. In addition, you may drool excessively, be unable to talk clearly, and even be unable to drink liquids. With this in mind, **it is not advised to have bilateral mandibular blocks**. There are occasions when you may choose to have them done anyway.

For example, it may be too difficult in terms of time and travel for you to return to have the other side worked upon. Another reason is that you want all the work done right away. In any case, should you choose to have bilateral mandibular blocks, you must be extra careful and aware of the possible self inflicted damage that can occur. That being said, the majority of patients who elect to have these injections experience no problems whatsoever. Because children have difficulty remembering instructions, bilateral mandibular blocks are almost never given to them.

Please ask the dentist or the staff if you have any questions or reservations about this or any treatment.

I give my consent for the proposed treatment as described above.

Patient's last name

Patient's first name

Patient's ID#

Patient's signature

Date

Dentist's signature

Date

Witness's signature

Witness's name

Date