

# Cementation and Intra-Treatment Consent

Dentistry is an “imperfect” science by nature. Even if you achieved perfection, it is still possible that a patient could complain to a State Board or file a civil lawsuit alleging negligence. Therefore, we recommend transparency and insightful communication throughout the restorative process to keep the patient fully informed and responsible for their decisions to move forward at different stages of complicated care.

## Consent for Intra-Treatment Steps and Final Cementation of Permanent Prosthetic Restorations

You’re in the final stages of an implant hybrid prosthesis, or eight upper anterior veneers, or an upper or lower anterior bridge. A commonality to all these modalities of treatment is they are time-consuming for both you and your patient, they are expensive, they involve esthetic elements, and a dissatisfied patient is probable.

Maybe there were complications along the way even if you provided the patient with a comprehensive pre-treatment informational session to allow them to provide their informed consent. The treatment is nearing its conclusion. Don’t let your guard down as the case is winding toward a successful end. Before delivering the finished prosthesis to the patient, take the time to obtain the patient’s informed consent regarding the color (shade), feel, shape, and overall appearance, either temporarily in place or on a model.



Once all of the above has been consented to by the patient, it is time to obtain consent for final cementation. This is a critical step in helping to mitigate a “buyer’s remorse” situation after permanently setting the prosthesis in place. Mitigating patient disputes regarding the subjective esthetic result of a fixed prosthodontic restoration with intra-treatment and final cementation consents is prudent practice management.

## The Final Conversation and What Elements to Focus On

The final cementation conversation and informed consent should focus on the following elements:

1. Remind the patient that final cementation is permanent.
2. Discuss with the patient that subsequent removal for a re-make may result in irreversible harm to the affected tooth.
3. Reconfirm with the patient their satisfaction with the following upon viewing the restoration in place within the dentition:
  - a. Shade
  - b. Shape
  - c. Look and feel
  - d. Overall appearance
4. Emphasize to the patient that now is the time to discuss any changes they would like made.
5. Discuss the financial obligations of post-cementation change requests.
6. Review the consent form with the patient and address all their questions.



The patient’s acknowledgment of the content of the consents and their signature on the form is the predicate for final cementation. A little time spent conversing with your patient before permanent cementation helps avoid subsequent buyer’s remorse.

**We have a sample consent form you can use to help – [download it now!](#)**

*Disclaimer: The information contained in this document does not establish a standard of care, nor does it constitute legal advice. The information is for general informational purposes only and is prepared from a risk management perspective to aid in reducing professional liability exposure.*