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Post Operative Instructions for Fillings

You have just had a new filling. This is what you may feel:

1. Hot sensitivity that may last a few days.
2. Cold sensitivity that may last up to 8 weeks, but gradually decreasing in pain during that time period.
3. Sensitivity to chewing that may last up to 8 weeks, but gradually decreasing in pain during that time period.
4. After the numbing wears off, you may feel you are not biting correctly. Please call so your bite can be adjusted. You may not feel this for some time if the bite is only slightly high. Remember, when you are numb it is hard for you to judge if you are biting your teeth together correctly.

White Fillings

White fillings are hard right away so you may chew on them right away, but they may be sensitive.

Children usually cannot tell if they are missing a filling; therefore I ask that a few weeks down the road and again a few months down the road look in their mouths and check to be sure if it is in tact. If a filling is left out till the next cleaning I will guarantee you that it will have decay and need to be refilled. It will be larger and deeper than before.

Possible need for Root Canal Treatment

Any filling no matter what size or depth may result in the need of a root canal. The symptoms you look for include:

1. Hot sensitivity that last longer than a few weeks.
2. Hot sensitivity that begins after the tooth has remained asymptomatic.
3. Spontaneous pain that occurs anytime during the day or night
4. Swelling, either in the mouth or on the face
5. Cold sensitivity that lingers on for many minutes. Sharp instantaneous reaction to cold is probably not a root canal symptom.

This is the same for children except a pulpotomy(baby root canal) is performed.

Tooth Breakage

Anytime a filling is placed there is less natural tooth. With less natural tooth the tooth is weaker. The filling material is not as strong as tooth therefore is in a weaker state. If your tooth breaks a new filling may be put in if not too large, however if it is very large a crown will be recommended to protect the remaining tooth.