

Post Operative Instructions for Dental Treatment;

Composite or white fillings and silver(amalgam) fillings-
You have just had a new filling. This is what you may feel:

- Hot Sensitivity that may last a few days
- Cold sensitivity that may last up to 8 weeks, but gradually decreasing in pain during that time period.
- Sensitivity to chewing that may last up to 8 weeks, but gradually decreasing in pain during that time period.
- 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 are hard right away so you can chew on them immediately, but they may be sensitive.

On the other hand silver fillings are soft for the first 24 hours –so please chew on the other side of the mouth .Chewing too soon on the tooth causes small fractures that will effect the longevity of the restoration. In some cases the filling may even come out. If silver filling were placed on both sides of the mouth please eat soft foods only.

Since children do not usually follow the 24 hour rule for silver fillings it is more likely that their fillings come out. Children usually cannot tell if they are missing a filling (; therefore I ask that a few weeks down the road and a few

months down the road you look in their mouths to check to be sure if it is in tact. If a filling is left out till the next cleaning I will guarantee you 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 the size or depth may result in the need of a root canal. The symptoms you look for include:

- Hot sensitivity that lasts longer than a few weeks
- Hot sensitivity that begins after the tooth has been asymptomatic or problem free for a period of time.
- Spontaneous pain that occurs anytime during the day or night
- Swelling, either in the mouth or on the face
- 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-

Any time 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 natural 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.

Endodontic Treatment (root canal therapy);

Following the completion of a root canal you may have soreness, especially when biting. This is normal; however, if there is extreme discomfort or swelling, please call the office.

After the completion of treatment it is required that you have a permanent restoration placed. In most cases a crown with a post is required. Please do not bite down on your tooth until this is completed or you may break the tooth and then require crown lengthening or at worst case an extraction. Due to leakage of the temporary filling you should ideally restore the tooth as soon as possible. Bacteria from your mouth can easily re-infect your root canal.

Should you feel you are having any problems please do not hesitate to give the office a call.

Pulpotomy (For primary teeth)-

This procedure is required for one of the following reasons:

- Deep cavity that exposes the nerve of the tooth
- Toothaches
- Obvious abscess on the gum

When this is required the nerve in the crown of the tooth is removed. I then place a cotton pellet with medication inside the tooth. It stays in the tooth for 10 minutes. The medication is removed and a temporary filling is placed.

On rare occasions it may be required to leave the medication in for a few weeks. In these cases you will need to return for the cotton pellet to be removed at another visit.

After a pulpotomy it is required to have a stainless steel crown placed. This should be done soon after the visit, within 1-4 weeks. If the temporary filling is left in for too long it will become leaky and the tooth is at risk at becoming re-infected.

Should the temporary filling come out between visits please call right away so it can be replaced. If it is not replaced the tooth will become re-infected.

Consent to administer local anesthetic-

Post Operative instructions for crowns and bridges-

You may feel soreness or sensitivity of your gums.

You may have temperature sensitivity including both hot and cold.

Your tooth may be sore to bite on.

However the following may be a sign and symptom of a tooth needing root canal therapy:

- Hot sensitivity that lasts longer than a few weeks or that starts after your tooth has felt just fine.
- Cold sensitivity that lingers on for a few minutes.
However that one sharp initial sensitivity to cold is not always a sign that other treatment is needed.
- Hurts to chew
- Spontaneous pain
- Throbbing when you change positions such as lying down or bending to tie your shoes

The most common problem is simply that the temporary is high. When you are numb you do not always bite correctly. Although I may have adjusted the bite at the time the crown or bridge was cemented once you are no longer numb you may bite differently.

Please call and let me know that you are having a problem.

Call if you break your temporary or if it comes loose.
Stainless Steel Crowns-

These crowns are placed on teeth for one of the following reasons;

- Large filling that will not hold up till the child loses the tooth
- The tooth has a pulpotomy
- Other:_____

It is called a stainless steel crown because it is made of stainless steel and has the same color.

The child should avoid chewing on it for ½ hour.
On occasion they do.