
Postoperative Instructions

What to expect after your crown appointment

Crowns are great restorations for fragile or broken teeth. Today your tooth will be prepared for a crown, impressions will be taken, a temporary crown will be made and an appointment will be made to place your permanent crown in three weeks. If there are any questions or concerns please ask the assistant or dentist before leaving today.

A. Temporary Crowns

1. At the end of this appointment a temporary crown will be made by the assistant.
2. The temporary crowns are made from acrylic and serve several functions. They insulate the prepared tooth, they help the soft tissue heal into the appropriate shape, and they provide some chewing function.
3. Before leaving your appointment, the assistant should make sure the temporary fits and feels good to you. If you have any concerns about the temporary, please relay them to the assistant or dentist prior to leaving. This temporary will act as your crown for the next three weeks.
4. In general, temporary crowns are placed in the mouth with temporary bonding agent. The temporary bonding agent has minimal bond strength and this allows the dentist to easily remove the temporary crown in order to cement the permanent crown at you next appointment.

B. Discomfort

1. Some discomfort is normal after a crown appointment. It usually can be controlled by taking ibuprofen or tylenol.
2. The discomfort should be minimal and should not affect sleep or normal activities.
3. Any discomfort should be drastically reduced in 24 hours.
4. Some sensitivity can occur while in the temporary crown.

C. Diet

1. Avoid hard foods as temporary crowns have a tendency to crack.
2. Avoid sticky foods and candy. These foods will stick to the temporary crown and pull it off.

D. Oral Hygiene

1. Brush your teeth gently around the crown.
2. When flossing around the temporary crown, always floss towards the gums and then pull the floss from one end out towards the lip/cheek.
3. If you floss in a normal up and down motion, the temporary crown will be dislodged.

E. If the temporary crown falls off

1. Your temporary crown may fall off, if this occurs it usually is not an emergency.
2. If it occurs during office hours, call the office and we will change the adhesive to a stronger adhesive.
3. Your assistant may have given you a sample packet of temporary bonding agent. You may use this to recement your temporary crown.
4. You may use temporary bonding agent found in local pharmacies.
5. You can use denture adhesive.

F. Call the office if:

1. You experience excessive discomfort that you can not control with ibuprofen or tylenol.
2. You have swelling.
3. You feel you have a fever.
4. You have any questions.