

CROWN & BRIDGE WORK

It is important that the temporary crown (or bridge) stay in place until the permanent crown is placed. If the temporary crown becomes dislodged or feels uncomfortable, please call us so that we may see you as soon as possible. Do not attempt to “glue” the temporary crown back in yourself or “go without it” as the teeth may become sensitive or shift slightly, preventing placement of the permanent crown. Some cold sensitivity and tenderness around the gum is normal for the first few days.

If you are experiencing mild pain, ibuprofen (Advil) or naproxen (Aleve) are the drugs of choice. (You can take as much as 600mg ibuprofen every 4-6 hours **or** 500mg naproxen every 8-10 hours). If you continue to have problems, please call.

Avoid: Avoid chewing anything very hard or sticky on the temporary crown. Examples to avoid: gum, hard crusty bread, taffy, ice or hard candy. Brush as usual, but floss with care. When flossing, remove floss from the side of the tooth. It is important to brush and keep gum tissue as clean as possible.

Long Term Care of Your New Crown or Bridge:

Now that your crown or bridge has been cemented there are a few things to expect and to care for. Initially, you may experience some sensitivity to cold as the tooth may be slightly irritated by the cement. Sensitivity toothpaste generally helps (ie. Pronamel by Sensodyne). Also, if after a couple of days your bite seems off or it just doesn't feel normal, please call our office for a slight adjustment.

It is extremely important to maintain excellent oral hygiene with your new crown or bridge. Some people have the misconception that a crowned tooth no longer needs to be maintained. Crowns and bridges are still susceptible to decay near the gumline, the same as a natural tooth. The crown strengthens the portion of the tooth above the gumline but this margin area requires special care. Normal brushing and flossing is a must! Additional use of a fluoride rinse (ie. Act or Flurogard), and a high fluoride content toothpaste or gel (ie. Prevident 5000 or Gel Kam) are excellent for preventing additional decay.

Most crowns and bridges have a ceramic outer layer or are all ceramic. These materials are very strong and color stable but they still have potential to fracture like a natural tooth. **DO NOT CHEW ICE!** The extreme temperature change greatly increases the fracture of porcelain and natural teeth.