



Instructions Following Crown or Bridge Treatment

Temporaries • Following the first appointment for a crown or bridge procedure, a temporary is usually placed on the tooth or teeth involved to protect them while the custom restoration is being made. Temporary crowns are aesthetically produced to restore function to the prepared teeth. Your final restoration will be shaped and shaded better than the temporary.

Discomfort • After the tooth has been prepared, you may experience some minor discomfort and sensitivity. You can help reduce this by taking Tylenol or Advil every four hours and rinsing with a warm salt water solution 4-5 times a day (1 teaspoon of salt in 4oz. of water).

Medication • We may prescribe medication to control pain and prevent infection. Use it only as directed. Even if it does not seem to work for you, do not increase the dosage.

Cleaning • Do not floss the temporary crown or filling. When brushing, be extra gentle with that area. It is strongly recommended that you rinse with warm salt-water 4-5 times daily until your next visit for crown cementation. If you feel something lodged in or around the gum tissue or if the tissue around the tooth continues to be sensitive after three or four days, please call the office.

Dislodgment of temporaries • Temporary fillings or crowns occasionally come out because the cement used is weak, which allows the doctor to easily remove the temp when placing the final restoration. If it becomes dislodged, don't be alarmed. Call the office for a short appointment and bring the temporary with you so we can re-cement it. Above all, do not discard it. If you are out of town, use a little denture adhesive to put it back in. *Don't use crazy glue.* Be sure to position the tooth properly before you glue it. **Remember, a temporary crown must be replaced.**

Your permanent restoration • After the final cementation of your fixed restoration, it may take a few days to get used to the new crown or bridge. If you feel the bite is not correctly balanced, call for an appointment for this simple adjustment. Many crowns fit below the gum line. Therefore, you may experience some discomfort for a few days to irritation of that area during the procedures. Also, sensitivity to cold or pressure is also possible and the use of Advil and the salt-water solution described above is recommended.

Hygiene • Proper brushing and flossing is recommended to help you retain your final restoration. The only area that a crowned tooth can decay is at the edge of the crown, at the gum line.