

KILLIAN HILL DENTAL CARE

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Post-Operative Instruction for Crowns & Bridges

1. If you received novocaine today, do not eat while the numbness is present.
2. If the crown preparation was started today:
 - a. The gums will usually be very sore and tender even to the point of aching. This is due to the cord that was placed in that area during today's procedure. Warm salt-water rinses and Orabase with benzocaine applied sparingly to the gums can help alleviate this discomfort. These symptoms usually last only a couple of days; however; they may be present for up to a couple of weeks.
 - b. The tooth that was prepared today may ache or throb. Ibuprofen (Advil®), Aspirin or Tylenol® will help relieve this discomfort. If a stronger medication is needed, please call the office for a prescription.
 - c. The tooth may be very sensitive to hot or cold. Most of the time, this condition will clear up after the permanent crown is placed; however, occasionally the sensitivity may be present for months. A few of these teeth may eventually require root canal treatment.
 - d. A temporary crown has been placed to keep the tooth comfortable during fabrication of the permanent crown. It is retained with a cement that is purposely made weaker so the temporary may be removed at its proper time. Avoid any sticky foods (gum, candy, etc.) or hard foods (ice, nuts, etc.) as it may dislodge or crack the temporary. While flossing, let go of one end and pull it out from between the teeth. If a temporary becomes dislodged, you may gently try to place it back onto the tooth and press it into place with your finger. If this does not work, then save it, and call the office at your earliest convenience to arrange for recementation. Although it is not an emergency situation, it is best to not leave a temporary crown off for too long.
3. If your permanent crown was cemented today:
 - a. Unless directed otherwise, normal chewing on the new crown can begin after 24 hours.
 - b. A conscious effort must be maintained to avoid sticky foods (caramels, taffy, etc.) which may dislodge the crown. These sticky foods must be avoided for as long as the crown is present in your mouth.
4. In the future:
 - a. If your crown contains porcelain, it will be very durable. However, there is an occasional crown where the porcelain will fracture. If this occurs, please call our office for consultation.
 - b. With this crown, you have made a long-term investment in your oral health. It is imperative that the area where the crown meets the tooth be kept scrupulously clean by brushing and flossing. Failure to adhere to this strict regimen of oral hygiene may seriously shorten the useful life of your crown.

Thank you for being a good patient. If you have any problems or any other questions that were not discussed here, please feel free to call our office. If you have a dental emergency that cannot wait until normal office hours, then call Dr. Gangwisch at his home at 770-978-6661, or Dr. Hulsey at his home at 678-377-1347.