

Ask The Smile Expert...

My dentist tells me I need to crown my tooth because it has a crack in it, but why is it necessary to fix it and what could have caused this crack in my tooth?



Unfortunately, tooth fractures do not heal themselves like bone fractures and only continue to worsen over time. Although enamel is very strong, many things contribute to cracks in teeth and a few of the reasons are listed here:

1. Teeth are more likely to fracture if there is a large filling in the tooth, especially when the filling is so large that it is supporting the tooth rather than the tooth supporting the filling.
2. Tooth clenchers exert tremendous amounts of pressure on their teeth and that can cause cracking of the enamel.
3. Biting on a piece of bone or other foreign object in your food can crack or break your tooth.
4. Of course accidents and injuries can fracture a tooth.
5. Craze lines often occur in the front teeth from eating hot and cold foods in quick succession. These craze lines are usually very superficial and inconsequential.

If a tooth is broken you can see the problem, but if a tooth is cracked, you often cannot see the crack. The symptom is usually pain to biting. If you think you have a cracked tooth, you should consult your dentist immediately.

Please feel free to submit a question for [The Smile Expert](http://www.drpatricialondon.com) through our website at www.drpatricialondon.com. We look forward to providing you with helpful information to improve your quality of life and your understanding of dentistry.

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