Porcelain Onlays

Porcelain onlays are the perfect alternative to dental crowns and caps. I don't like to take more tooth than we have too and try to crown teeth only use it as an absolute last resort. Most of the time, a porcelain onlay can be used to provide all the advantages of a dental crown without the numerous and significant disadvantages.

Porcelain Onlays — the Crown Alternative

When a tooth is cracked or has become damaged by decay, trauma or an existing amalgam filling; very often a porcelain onlay is the my treatment of choice. Unlike a dental crown that requires the entire tooth to be ground down to a nub, a porcelain onlay is a very conservative procedure. We strive to be as conservative as possible. onlays and practically never place dental crowns.

Porcelain Onlays are Conservative

To prepare a tooth for a porcelain onlay we safely remove the existing mercury amalgam filling, the decay and any cracked or weak enamel. Every single bit of good healthy tooth structure is preserved. This results in an intricately shaped tooth preparation. The porcelain onlay that is custom fabricated to precisely fit the tooth preparation is kind of like a 3-D jigsaw puzzle piece of ceramic.

The porcelain onlay is then bonded to the prepared tooth using a specialized process that creates a chemical and physical fusing of the porcelain to the tooth's enamel and dentin. The bonding process results in a tooth that is virtually as strong as it was before it ever had a filling or a cavity ... a tooth that looks good, feels strong and will last a very long time.

Onlay vs. Crown