Post-Op Instructions Crown and Bridge

Temporary Crown

• Following the first appointment for a crown or bridge procedure, a temporary crown is placed on the tooth or teeth involved. This will protect them while the custom restoration is being made.
• Temporary cement is used so that the crown can be easily removed at your next appointment. If your temporary crown comes off between appointments, clean the inside and slip the temporary crown back on and call us for an appointment to re-cement the crown as soon as possible. We have provided you with a re-cement kit or a little Vaseline or toothpaste placed inside the temporary crown will help hold it in place until it is cemented.
• Avoid chewing gum, sticky foods and candy while the temporary crown is in place. The temporary crown is made of a plastic and is not as smooth as the permanent crown and it will come off if these foods are eaten.
• Your permanent crown will be custom shaped and shaded to match your teeth. The temporary crown is made to serve you for a short period of time, so its color and shape are not as closely matched to your teeth.

Post-Op Complications

• Be careful until the anesthetic wears off. Due to the strange feeling of the anesthetic, many people will chew the inside of their lips, cheeks or tongue, which can cause serious damage.
• The numbing in the upper jaw will last approximately 1 hour, and the numbing in the lower jaw will last up to 4 hours.
• Sensitivity, especially to cold, is common following a dental restoration. The sensitivity may last several days to several months depending on how deep the cavity penetrated your tooth. The sensitivity is usually most noticeable the first 12 to 24 hours after the anesthetic wears off and then disappears slowly.
• The gum tissue may have been irritated during the procedure and may be sore for a few days. The site where the anesthetic injection was given may also be sore for a few days.

Care for your teeth & mouth

• Please follow prescribed oral hygiene instructions-45 degree angle brushing twice a day and flossing once a day to avoid getting a cavity or gum disease around the filling. When flossing around your temporary crown, slide the floss out between your teeth rather than snapping up between the teeth so your temporary crown does not come off.

Cementation Appointment

• Please do not eat or drink for 30 minutes after your new crown is cemented. Do not eat hard or sticky foods for 24 hours while the cement completely sets.
• Your new crown may feel tight or as if it is pushing against the teeth next to it for several hours. This discomfort will go away within a day or two.
• Sensitivity, especially to cold is common after a crown is cemented. Usually the deeper the cavity, the more sensitive the tooth will be. It may take several days to a month for the sensitivity to go away.
• The finished restoration may be contoured slightly different and have a different texture than the original tooth. Your tongue usually magnifies this small difference, but you will become accustomed to this in a few days.
• Please follow prescribed oral hygiene instructions-45 degree angle brushing twice a day and flossing once a day to avoid getting a cavity or gum disease around your new crown. Flossing is especially important in preserving the health of your crown or bridge.