

Common Questions after a Dental Restoration (filling, crown, or bridge)

| Q U E S T I O N S | A N S W E R S |
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| Should my jaw muscles be sore and stiff for a few days after the visit? | Yes, even short visits can cause jaw tenderness in some people. <i>TREATMENT: Soft foods, massage, heat packs, Advil and time.</i> |
| Should I have limited opening of my jaw after the visit? | Rarely, however, some people's jaws respond this way even to short appointments. <i>TREATMENT: Soft foods, massage, heat packs, Advil and time. Symptoms usually resolve in a few days.</i> |
| Will there be any swelling or bruising after the visit? | Rarely, but this can happen with some people and usually depends upon how extensive the visit was. <i>TREATMENT: Soft foods, cold packs, Advil and time. If swelling persists, come back in for a visit.</i> |
| Should I feel anything where you gave me the needle? | Yes, however this should be mild and will disappear in 1 to 2 days. <i>TREATMENT: Advil or Tylenol as needed.</i> |
| Will my gums be sore and/or possibly bleed? | Yes, especially if the decay extended in between two teeth or below the gum line. <i>TREATMENT: Gently brush and floss, even if it's tender. Salt water rinses, Advil and time.</i> |
| What should I do if my tooth is sensitive to HOT and COLD after the restoration is placed? (There was no sensitivity before it was put in.) | Wait it out. " NEW FILLING SYNDROME " can be caused by two things: (1) The stress put on the nerve by new decay, an existing/old filling, or a fracture. This initially does not always cause pain, but does lessen the nerve's ability to cope with further stress. (2) The stress put on the nerve by removing the decay or old restoration and placing a new one. The combination of (1) and (2) can cause sensitivity which usually resolves on its own within 2 to 4 weeks. If the sensitivity persists, a root canal (removal of the hypersensitive nerve) should be considered. |
| What should I do if my tooth is sensitive to HOT, COLD and BITING PRESSURE? | Come in for a visit. It could be a variety of things: (1) High filling – Simply remove excess filling from the biting surface. (2) Hypersensitive nerve – Some nerves do not respond favourably to decay and the restorative procedure. These teeth may require a root canal (removal of the hypersensitive nerve) and a crown even though you came in for a "simple filling". (3) Cracked tooth syndrome – Dental decay greatly weakens the tooth. Once decay is removed, the remaining undecayed tooth structure is often very weak and develops a crack. If your tooth develops a crack, you will need a root canal and crown even though you came in to have a "simple filling" done. |
| Will the removal of decay and placement of this restoration guarantee that I won't need a root canal in the future? | No. Some people's teeth do not respond favourably to decay, and the restorative procedure, and may still require a root canal. |
| Will this restoration last forever? | No. Your natural tooth is made of a material far superior to anything dentistry has come up with. If your natural teeth can decay and break down, so can anything placed by a dentist. <i>TREATMENT: Replacement of worn restoration.</i> |
| Is there a possibility of the new restoration breaking or coming out? | Yes. It doesn't happen very often, but we do see it. The causes are too numerous to discuss in this brief answer. Discuss your specific situation with the dentist. <i>TREATMENT: Replacement of the new restoration.</i> |
| Is there a possibility of my natural tooth breaking away from the restoration? | Yes. We see this usually with larger fillings. <i>TREATMENT: Crown (ideal) or really large filling.</i> |