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INFORMATION FOLLOWING CROWNS

What Patients Should Know About Provisional Crowns (Plastic Temporary Crowns)

Temporary plastic crowns are more precisely named “provisional crowns.” These interim restorations act as a bandage to allow for proper healing of the oral tissues. They stabilize the bite and reduce tooth sensitivity during treatment. Provisional crowns may also be a prototype of the definitive crown to test function. These crowns are made of softer dental materials than permanent restorations to allow for ease of removal during treatment. Because of their soft characteristics, treatment with extra care. Avoid too hard or sticky foods and chewing gum.

It is just as important to brush and floss your treatment restoration as it is with final restorations, but remove the floss from the side to prevent the provisional crown from dislodging.

What to do if your provisional:

- 1. Comes loose?** Your provisional restoration is protecting the tooth, but also keeping the position of the tooth. If it is off for even a few hours, the definitive crown may not fit properly. If your provisional comes loose, place it in an envelope and contact our office right away. If you cannot come in for some time, temporary cement is sold at most drug stores. Please make sure to clear as much of the prior cement out as possible and place only a thin amount of temporary cement into the provisional crown. It is important to notify our office if this has occurred, even if it fits back perfectly.
- 2. Seems High?** If your provisional seems high or touches first when you bite or chew, please contact our office to adjust it. The way you bite maybe different from when you were anesthetized. Ignoring the high spot will create soreness, cold sensitivity, and possible dislodgement.
- 3. Causes Discomfort?** Should you experience discomfort immediately after placement, take Tylenol or Ibuprofen every 4 hours with a full glass of water. Discomfort is normal for a few days after the procedure. If this doesn't work or the discomfort last for more than a few days, please contact our office.
- 4. Seems too big?** This is normal. Because of the soft nature of the dental materials used to make the provisional restorations, we compensate by making them slightly bulky for strength. This size will not be duplicated in your final restoration.
- 5. Seems rough?** This is common, since the dental materials used to make provisional restorations are difficult to shape, polish, and fit in the mouth. Small amounts of roughness and porosity will not be present in the definitive restoration that is made in the laboratory.

What about multiple crowns?

In multiple crown provisionals it is sometimes better to splint them together as a single unit. This provides better stability during treatment. These often require more adjustment of the bite because of their complexity. One challenge of these is that you will not be able to floss traditionally and will need to use special floss threaders.

Many times large treatment restoration may cause a feeling of being locked in when you close. This is common in custom temporaries (used as provisionals) because they are made to fit the opposing teeth. We attempt to allow some freedom for comfort, but if the bite is uncomfortable please notify our office and we will adjust it for you.

What about the color of the provisional?

The treatment restorations may not match your other teeth perfectly since the materials used for the provisionals come in limited colors. We do our best to match to the closest available shade. The definitive restoration will be custom made for better esthetics. We want to make your treatment as comfortable as possible. If you have any other questions, please contact our office. Your comfort is our priority and we are here to help.