



Why Do I Need A Crown

At your clinical examination, it was suggested that the proper means of restoring your tooth was a crown. Our reasons for making that suggestion can vary from case to case. Some of the indications for a crown are:

- A previously filled tooth where there now exists more filling than tooth. The existing tooth structure becomes weakened and can no longer support the filling.
- Discolorations and compromised esthetics.
- Fractures
- Root canal - After root canal, teeth tend to become brittle and are more apt to fracture. They, therefore, need to be protected by a crown.
- Replacement of missing teeth requires crowning adjacent teeth in order to support the missing teeth.
- Replacement of existing crowns or bridges.



During your visit today, we began the fabrication of your new crown. (*By the way, the word crown and cap are synonymous*). I'd like to take a moment to explain what went on and what you can expect over the next several days.

We began by giving you a local anesthetic. Depending upon the type of local anesthetic we used, you can expect to be numb for one to four hours. If your anesthesia should last longer, do not be concerned. Not everyone reacts to medication in the same manner. One word of caution: While you are numb, please be careful not to bite your lip or tongue. A soft diet or no meal at all while you are numb is probably a good idea. If your child has been the patient, please watch them carefully to be sure they do not play with their tongue or lip while it is numb. Once you were numb, we prepared your tooth in a very specific way in order to maximize the retention and esthetics of your new porcelain to metal crown. After the tooth was fully prepared, we proceeded with the impression stage. We used a thin of retraction cord which was placed around your tooth in order to get the impression material under the gum where the crown ends. Please rest assured that this small piece of cord was removed prior to the end of today's visit.

Should you experience any discomfort you can take a mild analgesic (*Tylenol™, Advil™, Anacin™, etc.*) as long as there is no medical contraindication based upon your medical history. Typically, you can take anything you would normally take for a headache. If the discomfort persists, please call the office.

Once the impression stage was completed, we placed a temporary (*transitional*) crown (*or bridge if multiple teeth were involved*) on your tooth. These plastic (*acrylic*) restorations are placed on teeth to protect them and the gum tissues between dental visits. The temporary cementing medium used is designed to allow me, or my hygienist, to easily remove them at your next scheduled visit.

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