

## Crowns or Replacement Crowns



### 1. What is a replacement crown?

- A replacement crown replaces part or all of the natural crown of a tooth. It is also called a crown or a cap.
- The visible part of the tooth is called the crown. It is joined to the root of the tooth which is in the jawbone under the gum.
- When all, or a large part of the original crown of a tooth has been destroyed, a replacement crown is made to restore the tooth.
- A replacement crown is also made for a healthy tooth when it forms part of a bridge, or when it is used for cosmetic purposes.
- A natural crown that has become discolored or unsightly can be replaced with a new crown. The new crown can be made to match the surrounding teeth in colour, shape and proportion.
- A replacement crown is prepared by the dentist and made by a dental technician.

### 2. How is a replacement crown prepared and made?

- The dentist will pare down the tooth, and remove any **decay**.
- An **impression** of the prepared tooth is taken using an elastic material. This is sent to the dental technician, where the replacement crown is made.
- A temporary **acrylic** crown will be fitted over the prepared tooth, while the replacement crown is being made.
- The new crown is then cemented onto the prepared tooth.
- Replacement crowns can also be used as supports for a **bridge**, where they are joined to artificial teeth to fill a gap between the teeth.



Before



Preparation



After

### 3. What are replacement crowns made of?

- Replacement crowns may be made of **porcelain**, gold or a combination of metals.
- Porcelain can be fused to a metal base, usually gold or silver, when the crown needs added strength, and when a good appearance is required. This is called a porcelain jacket crown.
- Temporary crowns are made of **acrylic**.



Crown made of  
porcelain and metal



Porcelain crown

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### 4. Will the pared down tooth be sensitive until I receive my crown?

- No, it won't. The dentist will make and install a temporary **acrylic** crown to protect the pared down tooth. It will look good and be comfortable to eat with.



Preparation



Temporary crowns



Final crowns

### 5. Is it painful or uncomfortable to have a crown made?

- The procedure is not painful because a **local anaesthetic** is used during the preparation of the tooth, and the taking of the **impression**.
- Pain relief is seldom necessary after the treatment.
- **Sensitivity** to hot and cold sometimes occurs after the crown has been cemented, but this is usually temporary.

### 6. Will replacement crowns make me look good?

- Replacement crowns can restore and enhance the appearance of teeth and the smile.
- They are often used in **cosmetic dentistry** as part of the treatment. Replacement crowns can be made to look natural, and to match the surrounding teeth.



Before



After

### 7. How well will I be able to eat with a replacement crown?

- Eating with a replacement crown should be the same as with a natural tooth. With pure porcelain crowns, some care may be necessary.

### 8. How successful are replacement crowns?

- Replacement crowns are very successful for restoring teeth.
- They are functional: chewing is comfortable and the same as with natural teeth.
- They are **aesthetic**: they look natural and match the size, colour and shape of the other teeth.
- They are durable: they are known to last for up to forty years.

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Before



After

### 9. What role does the dental technician play?

- The dental technician plays an important part in the making of a crown. It takes skill and experience to fabricate a crown from the **impression** that the dentist provides. The crown must be very precise in its colour and dimensions.
- The impression that is received from the dentist is used to make a plaster or stone **cast** of the prepared tooth or teeth. The cast is a copy of the tooth or teeth.
- It allows the technician to make a crown over the exact copy of a prepared tooth.
- The technician will use the same shade/colour guide as the dentist, to ensure that the replacement crown will match the colour of the adjacent teeth.



Impression on left  
Crown on cast (right)



Crown + cast



Crown on cast  
for the dentist