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After Crown and Bridge Appointments

Crowns and bridges usually take two or three appointments to complete. On the first appointment the teeth are prepared. Temporary crowns or bridges are placed to protect the teeth while the custom restoration is being made. After each appointment when anesthetic has been used, your lips, teeth, and tongue may be numb for several hours after the appointment. Avoid any chewing until the numbness has completely worn off.

It's normal to experience some hot, cold, and pressure sensitivity after each appointment. Your gums may be sore for several days. Rinse three times a day with warm salt water to reduce pain and swelling. Use any medication (Tylenol or Ibuprofen) that you would typically take for a headache to help alleviate any pain or discomfort you may have.

On rare occasions temporary crowns come off. Call us if this happens, and keep the temporary so we can re-cement it. If it is still intact, put some Vaseline or toothpaste inside of it and attempt to put it back on your tooth. It is very important for the proper fit of your final restoration that temporaries stay in place.

To help keep your temporary in place, avoid eating sticky foods (especially gum), hard foods, and if possible, chew only on the opposite side of your mouth. It's important to continue to brush normally, but floss very carefully and remove the floss from the side to prevent removal of the temporary crown.

If your bite feels uneven, if you have persistent pain, or you have any other questions or concerns, please call our office. We check your bite very closely when you were here for your appointment, however when you are numb sometimes the bite is not as accurate. You may need to come in and have us adjust a high spot on the temporary. If at all possible to not delay this, it can cause the tooth to be sensitive or sore while eating and will only worsen.

When you receive your final crown, you will need to wait about 1 hour before eating and drinking. You will need to care for this tooth like any other tooth, it needs to be brushed and flossed. The crown itself cannot get a cavity, but there is still tooth structure when the crown ends and your tooth begins again. This is where you can get tooth decay if you do not care for this tooth properly. Crowns can last a long time with proper care. However, like any man made material, it will wear out with time and need replacing in the future.