

## all about CROWNS

*Your Dentist has advised the placement of a crown on your tooth.  
This a sophisticated method for repairing, strengthening or beautifying teeth.*

### **What Is It?**

A **crown** is a protective shell which covers the entire tooth, down to the edge of the gum - much like a crash helmet for your tooth. It is bonded over the entire tooth. It is made to fit precisely on your tooth by a specialised dental technician, and can be made to look exactly like a healthy, natural tooth. Crowns are also sometimes called 'caps'.

### **Why Do I Need A Crown?**

Your tooth has been damaged by decay, fracture or wear. It may be misshapen or discoloured. The placement of a crown is the best way in which your tooth can be restored. This gives some important benefits:

- *your tooth can be made to look exactly like a healthy, natural tooth - with no fillings!*
- *your tooth will remain healthy for much longer, because it will be strengthened against fracture and wear*
- *chewing (even hard foods) will be comfortable again*
- *the nerve in your tooth will be better protected, reducing the chance of root canal treatment*
- *costly replacement of old fillings should no longer be needed in your tooth*

### **What If I Don't Have a Crown?**

The risk of serious breakage, nerve death and possibly eventual loss of your tooth is greatly reduced by having a crown placed over it.

### **What Is Involved?**

Your dentist will first ensure that your tooth is free of decay, gum disease and nerve problems. Any existing fillings may be replaced, to remove underlying decay. The dentist then removes a thin layer from all surfaces of the tooth - this provides space for the thickness of the crown. A mould ('impression') is made of the tooth; this is sent to the specialist laboratory which will make the crown.

A temporary crown is fitted over the tooth, to keep the prepared tooth safe and comfortable during the period while the final crown is made.

At your final visit, the temporary crown will be taken off, the fit and cosmetic appearance of the new crown checked, and the crown is then permanently bonded over the tooth.

### **Cerec - a new alternative**

A more recent technology called 'Cerec' allows beautiful porcelain crowns & fillings to be made in a single visit. We are proud to offer Cerec - ask your dentist about this option.

### **How Long Will My Crown Last?**

International research shows that a crown which is properly made and fitted, and which is thoroughly maintained - by you and your dentist - should last 15-20 years or more. It is our aim to ensure that the crown we place on your tooth will last at least this long.

### **Will I Have Any Problems?**

A crown is a long-lasting means of repairing, strengthening or beautifying your tooth - it should achieve these aims without causing problems such as discomfort or difficulty with chewing. Problems such as gum disease and decay under or around the crown can be prevented by proper dental home care and regular dental check-ups.

We stand by the quality of our treatment, and appreciate it when patients notify us of any problems related to their crowns as soon as possible. In most cases, any extra treatment required to remedy a crown-related problem will be done at no extra fee.

### **How Should I Care For My Crown?**

You should care for your crown exactly like a natural tooth - proper tooth brushing and flossing, accompanied by regular dental check-ups. Your dentist will advise you of any other, special care requirements for your crown.

Naturally, don't use your crown in any way that you wouldn't use a natural tooth - opening bottles, bending paper clips, and stripping insulation from wire are some of the more interesting tooth abuses we've seen!