

Drs. Stukalin, P.A.

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INFORMED CONSENT FOR TEETH NEEDING CROWNS, BRIDGE, AND/OR FILLINGS

Why do you need a Filling?

You have a tooth that has an area of decay that needs to be repaired or you have an existing filling with decay around or under the filling.

Expectation of treatment:

If you need a filling, this will be completed in one visit. The decay will be removed along with the old filling (if present). A new composite (tooth colored filling) will be placed. There are no limitations after this procedure except that the area will be numb. Please do not eat until feeling returns to the area.

Occasionally cracks are detected in the tooth after the old filling has been removed. If this is the case a crown may be recommended. Usually there is not time at this appointment to complete the crown but the buildup portion will be done and another appointment made to complete the crown.

Why do you need a Crown or Bridge?

Teeth generally need crowns to add strength and prevent breakage of the underlying tooth that could result in tooth loss. Crowns are placed to keep you from losing the tooth. Your tooth may have any of the following problems resulting in the need for a crown: excessive decay, existing fracture lines, breakage, faulty existing crown, existing root canal, or a large unsightly existing filling.

If you are missing a tooth you may choose a bridge to replace the missing tooth. Teeth on either side of the missing tooth will be prepped for crowns, then a false tooth will be connected to these crowns to make a permanent fixed bridge.

Expectation of treatment:

Preparing a tooth for a crown or bridge requires two visits. At the first visit, Dr. Stukalin prepares the tooth by removing any decay or faulty fillings and by removing the enamel layer of the tooth. The tooth may need a build-up to replace the missing tooth structure. Often, this cannot be determined until the old crown is removed and the remaining tooth is evaluated. Impressions will be taken and a temporary crown will be fabricated to protect the tooth while the permanent restoration is being made at our lab. The lab time is generally 4-8 weeks depending on their schedule. It is best to try to book a crown/bridge when you will be in town. During this time you will have the temporary crown/bridge in place. Temporary crowns can come out since they are only held in with temporary cement and/or the

temporary may be broken if a patient chews on the temporary or grinds their teeth. These complications are rare and most patients do well with their temporaries as long as they are moderately careful chewing. At the next visit, your permanent crown or bridge will be fitted and cemented. Occasionally, a crown does not meet our standards (cosmetics, bite incorrect, open contact that would allow food packing) and the crown/bridge must be returned to the lab for adjustments. Typically this will be corrected at the lab and returned within 2 weeks. This would require an additional appointment.

For anterior (front) crowns we may request you go to the lab for a custom shade. The lab charges \$250 for the custom shade but this gives a much more accurate shade. We can do a custom shade on any tooth. Please request this for posterior teeth.

Possible Complications:

Any tooth needing a crown, bridge or filling always holds the possibility of the following:

- The pulp has been irritated by pre-existing conditions like deep decay, cracks or by the current treatment. This could require root canal therapy to correct.
- A crown lengthening procedure may be indicated if minimal tooth structure remains after the decay has been removed.
- Tooth removal may be recommended if a crack is seen in the tooth during preparation, or if decay is too extensive.

Other possible complications are minor injuries to lips or gingiva tissue around the area, a part of the filling pops out of the mouth and can get in the eye, TMJ dysfunction, nerve damage and subsequent numbness, difficulty eating, sore muscles, and swallowing or aspirating the restoration. These are unusual circumstances and are rare. Additional medical and dental risks that have not been mentioned may occur.

Porcelain is made from glass and can possibly fracture. We guarantee our porcelain restorations from fracture for one (1) year, and then the cost is prorated for two (2) years with the exception of 2nd molars and implants (no guarantee). If we have made a bite splint for you then the guarantee is extended to 4 years.

I _____(patient's printed name) understand I am having treatment on tooth # _____ and have been given the opportunity to ask questions about my condition and any risks, benefits and alternatives available. I certify that I have read or have had read to me the contents of this consent form and realize the risks and limitations involved and consent to treatment.

Signature: _____

Date: _____