

Post-Operative Instructions for Stainless-Steel Dental Crown

Congratulations on your child's new dental crown! Here are some essential guidelines to ensure a smooth recovery and maintain the integrity of the new crown:

Local Anesthetic Care

- **Anesthetic Duration:** The numbness from the local anesthetic will **wear off in about 2-3 hours**. During this period, keep a close eye on your child to prevent them from accidentally biting or sucking on their tongue, cheek, or lip.
- **If an injury occurs:** It's common for the area to develop a **whitish-colored scab if bitten**; this should heal within 5-7 days. Apply an ice pack for 15 minutes on and off. For pain management, administer Tylenol or Motrin, following age-appropriate doses.

Crown Care

- **Initial Care:** Avoid chewing on the crown for the **first 12-24 hours** to allow the cement to harden fully. After this period, normal chewing can resume.
- **Oral Hygiene:** Continue regular brushing and flossing, but **avoid flossing around the new crown for the first 24 hours**.

Eating Habits

- **Dietary Precautions:** **Avoid hard, sticky, or chewy foods** that could dislodge or damage the crown, like ice or hard candy.

Discomfort Management

- **Gum Tissue:** The gums around the treated tooth may be sore for a few days due to irritation during the procedure, as well as from the anesthetic injection site.
- **Sensitivity:** It's normal for the tooth to be slightly sensitive initially. This should subside within a few weeks. Over-the-counter pain medications like Tylenol or Advil can help.

Follow-Up Care and Natural Tooth Transition

- **Routine Check-Ups:** The integrity of the crown will be monitored at regular appointments. The baby tooth will naturally exfoliate with the crown when the permanent tooth erupts.
- **In Case of Dislodgement:** If the crown comes off prematurely, store it in a zip-lock bag and contact our office immediately.

Following these guidelines will help ensure a successful recovery and the longevity of your child's new dental crown. For any questions or concerns, please contact our office at 571-210-2771.