



STAINLESS STEEL CROWNS

Your child has had one or more teeth restored with a stainless steel crown. The cement which holds the crown on the tooth requires approximately twelve hours to achieve its final set. Therefore, only soft foods should be chewed with the newly restored teeth today. Regular diet may be resumed the following day.

Stainless steel crowns may be dislodged or pulled off if extremely hard or sticky foods are chewed with them. Hard or sticky candy and all types of gum should be AVOIDED.

It is not unusual for the gum tissue around the newly restored tooth to be slightly irritated and inflamed for several days. This can be eased by using salt water rinse while the irritation persists.

The area should be brushed gently today, gradually increasing to normal tooth brush pressure in a few days.

If the crown is on the primary tooth, it will come out when the permanent tooth is ready to erupt/.

Should a crown become loose or dislodged it should be saved and you should contact the office to have it recemented as soon as possible.

SPACE MAINTAINER

Your child has received a space maintainer today to prevent primary teeth from drifting into spaces meant for permanent teeth. Several suggestions are important in caring for space maintainers.

The space must be kept clean. The wire(s) tend to collect food particles and great effort must be taken in cleaning the spacer to prevent future decay or gum irritation.

The spacer may be dislodged or pulled off if extremely hard or sticky candy or gum is chewed. Your child should avoid these foods as long as the spacer is in place.

Normally a spacer is kept in place until the permanent tooth or teeth erupt. At that time, the spacer should be removed to allow the permanent tooth to erupt fully into the space preserved by the spacer.

TOOTH REMOVAL

Because the numbness will last for 1-3 hours, it is important that the patient be watched closely and prevented from chewing his/her lips or cheeks while they are numb.

Some bleeding following the tooth removal is to be expected. To help the blood clot form, the child should bite firmly on folded cotton gauze in the extraction area for 30 minutes. Repeat if necessary with fresh gauze that will be given to you.

Avoid spitting, gargling, or using a straw for the next 24 hours as these activities will dislodge or prevent the blood clot from forming, thus delaying healing.

After one hour, soft foods can be eaten. For the next 48 hours, eat only those foods that are comfortable, accompanied by plenty of fluids.

Avoid hard play as energetic activity may cause additional bleeding to occur.