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Amalgam Post-op Information

Congratulations, you have had the oldest, most established material placed in your teeth. A few facts and instructions are helpful in getting the most from your restorations.



Procedure

The cavity in your tooth was cleaned out and an amalgam filling was placed. The size of the cavity dictated the size of the filling.

Protection

The tooth is now protected from that particular cavity destroying any more tooth structure. The larger the cavity the weaker the tooth. However, without proper care a new cavity could start in an adjacent area. Future check-ups are designed to detect that possibility.

Discomfort

New hot and cold sensitivity is normal and could extend for quite some time. The larger the cavity, the weaker the tooth and the larger the resulting filling will be, and the more sensitivity is expected. On those occasions, the filling may not be enough, and further treatment may be necessary.

Post-op care

The amalgam filling will not reach its full strength for several hours. So we recommend that you avoid chewing for 3 hours after the procedure. Avoiding chewing will also aid in protecting your soft tissues from damage by inadvertently "chewing on yourself". Frequent checkups will generally help find problems before they become a problem that is difficult and more costly to repair.

When to call the office

- * If the discomfort extends for several days and is not related to the expected hot and cold sensitivity.
- * If the pain is increasing daily and not gradually improving.
- * If the filling breaks or comes out.
- * If there is swelling in the area of the treatment.
- * If touching the teeth together causes pain.



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