

Stainless Steel Crown Information Leaflet

What is a stainless steel crown?

Stainless steel crowns can help to protect primary (baby) teeth. They fit over molars (back teeth) that are decayed or have not formed properly. They are pre-made and come in a range of sizes. We will choose one that will fit over your child's tooth. It will clip over the entire crown of the tooth (the part that sits above the gum) the crown is then cemented in place.

How long does it take and who carries out this treatment for your child?

Crown(s) can usually be fitted in one appointment (normally 20-30 minutes). Will be carried out by your dentist Dr Santosh Patil or dental therapist Rebecca Turner

Why does your child need a stainless steel crown?

A stainless steel crown is an alternative to extracting a decayed and weak tooth. A crown will help to protect the tooth and keep a space in the mouth for the adult tooth to come through.

Procedure....

A radiograph (x-ray) of the tooth needing crown will

be taken then the tooth is made numb with local anaesthetic and the decay is removed. The tooth is trimmed with a drill so that the crown is an exact fit. The crown is then clipped if necessary and cemented on the tooth/teeth.

In some cases, for example, in very anxious children, a variation on the treatment, called the Hall technique, can be used. This involves no local anaesthetic or drilling of the tooth.

How long do they last?

The crown should stay in place until the baby tooth falls out naturally (when the permanent tooth underneath is ready to come through). Occasionally, the tooth with the crown-on may need to be extracted (taken out) before then.

Are there any side effects?

The crown will feel tight on the tooth for the first couple of days. If you think your child needs it, provide painkillers. Speech and eating may be difficult at first. Also you may notice that the crown appears 'high' when it has first been put in. This usually settles within a couple of weeks.

How do I help my child look after the crown?

The crowns will behave like a normal tooth and you can treat it like one. Brush it twice a day along with the other teeth.

What do they look like ?

They are bright and metallic (see picture). Research shows that children are usually pleased to have shiny teeth

Does your child need any time off school?

No, your child will be able to go back to school after the treatment.



Do you need to give consent?

Yes, after we have discussed the procedure, we will ask you to give us your verbal consent. Then the treatment can go ahead.

Are there any alternatives?

White fillings are an alternative but do not seem to protect the tooth as well as full crowns do and have not been found to last as long in comparison: therefore they may not be suitable for very decayed and weak teeth.