



CRACKED TOOTH SYNDROME

Teeth may crack when subjected to stress from chewing hard food or ice, or by biting on an unexpected hard object. Teeth with or without restorations may exhibit this problem, but teeth restored with typical silver alloy restorations are most susceptible.

SYMPTOMS AND SIGNS:

1. Pain on chewing.
2. Pain on cold air application.
3. Unsolicited pain (usually leakage of sugar into tooth crack).
4. No radiographic evidence of problem.
5. No dental decay present.
6. Easy verification of crack when tooth is prepared for restoration.

TREATMENT OF CRACKED TEETH:

1. **SIMPLE CRACK:** The majority of cracked teeth (about 7 out of 10) can be treated by placement of a simple crown (*cap*) on the tooth. When the tooth is prepared for the crown and a temporary restoration is placed, the pain usually leaves immediately. IF THIS IS THE CASE WITH YOUR TOOTH, WE WILL DELIVER THE FINAL CROWN ON YOUR NEXT APPOINTMENT AND THE CONDITION SHOULD BE SOLVED.

2. **COMPLEX CRACK:** Occasionally (about 3 in 10) the tooth cracks into the pulp (nerve) of the tooth. IF PAIN PERSISTS AFTER PLACEMENT OF THE TEMPORARY CROWN YOU MAY HAVE A CRACK IN THE PULP OF THE AFFECTED TOOTH. PLEASE CALL US. THIS TOOTH MAY REQUIRE ENDODONTICS (ROOT CANAL THERAPY) BEFORE THE CROWN IS PLACED. This requires about two additional appointments.
3. Sometimes a cracked tooth will feel good and the new crown will be placed only to have the tooth become sensitive months to years later. Root canal therapy may be required and can be accomplished without removing or destroying the crown.

Thanks for your cooperation.