

THE

SMILE CENTER



FAMILY & COSMETIC DENTISTRY • ADULT ORAL SEDATION

What to expect from fillings and crowns:

The dental treatment you will have will be extensive due to the size of the old filling and the decay underneath it. The decaying process is in a very close proximity to the nerve of this tooth. Anytime damage to the tooth is this extensive, the nerve of your tooth will do one of two things. One, it will initially be sensitive but, because it is a healthy nerve, it will get better. Two, because it is unhealthy, due to the damage it will not get better and it will need a root canal. Because my goal is to protect the nerve in your teeth and help you avoid root canal therapy, I will give the nerve time to heal. If the nerve is still healthy, it will heal in 7-10 days.

It is important to remember that:

1. Every time a tooth decays and is filled, the nerve is irritated resulting in reversible inflammation manifesting itself as sensitivity in the next few weeks after having a restoration placed. It usually subsides with time if the nerve is still healthy.
2. Repeated dental treatment on a tooth or a filling which leaks (typical of silver fillings after five years in the mouth) can cause a chronic irreversible inflammation of the nerve. This process can take many years and is usually completely painless until it turns into a toothache.
3. The nerve inside a tooth can completely die without your knowledge until it becomes infected with possible pain and swelling. This process can not often be detected, even with x-rays, until the infection damages enough bone surrounding the tooth for it to be visible.
4. When teeth are repaired with large, deep fillings, we are often working on teeth with these conditions unknowingly. We take every step possible using the most current techniques available to give the tooth a chance to respond favorably to treatment. Even so, a percentage of teeth will become sensitive, become painful, or even get infected and produce swelling.
5. **It is in your best interest to treat a tooth as few times as possible to minimize these opportunities for nerve irritation.** Just the same, lack of repair to damaged teeth will eventually produce the same unfavorable outcome.

Everything possible was done today to minimize post-operative problems, but as you now understand, the damage may already have been done to the nerve. If there is discomfort, take two Ibuprofen and in two hours take two extra strength Tylenol and alternate the Ibuprofen and Tylenol every two hours as needed.

Please call our office if you experience any of these symptoms (817) 431-5514. You may also call Dr. Oser on his cell phone (214) 924-1114.

1. Sensitivity to cold that does not go away immediately (bite adjustment needed).
2. Sensitivity to hot or cold that lingers.
3. Throb or ache in area of the tooth's root.
4. Sharp, shooting pain that cannot be localized.
5. Any sign of swelling or area of the face that feels "hot" to the touch.

Signature _____ Date _____

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