

RENEE COMMARATO, D.D.S., M.S., INC.

Pediatric Dentistry

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STAINLESS STEEL CROWNS

When the baby teeth have large cavities or are decayed in areas which will not hold fillings, stainless steel crowns provide an excellent solution. The decay is removed and the tooth is slightly reduced. A crown is then carefully shaped to fit snugly over the tooth. The crown is filled with a special dental cement that helps hold the crown in position. Stainless steel crowns have a great advantage over large fillings. Unlike fillings, a stainless steel crown is virtually unbreakable and therefore will usually last as long as the tooth. In some cases, this can be until your child is 13 years old.

Your child will be numb around the area of the crown. This should only last a short while. Watch out for chewing or biting of the numb area. The crown extends below the gums. This area may be tender for a short while. Children's Tylenol or Motrin should help ease any possible discomfort, although this may not be needed.

Stainless steel crowns require no special care with the exception of the need to avoid sticky foods, and good hygiene. This includes chewing gum, bubble gum, Gummy bears, Now and Laters, caramels, taffy, Tootsie Rolls, fruit chews and fruit roll-ups. These foods can possibly dislodge the crown. It is rare for a crown to become uncemented, but should this happen, the crown should be saved and you should contact Dr. Commarato's office as soon as possible.

In order to position the crown correctly, pressure may be needed if your child cannot bite down hard enough. This may result in slight bruising along the jawline. The gum tissue may be sensitive for several days. In order to alleviate this, good hygiene is essential, starting tonight. Brush well along the gumline to remove plaque, which is an irritant. Flossing daily around the crown is essential for good dental health.

We are often asked, "What happens to the crown when the tooth is ready to fall out?". The answer is "Nothing!". It just comes out like any other tooth.