Dental Crowns

What is a crown?

- A crown is a tooth-shaped cap that goes over your tooth to repair its shape, size or how it looks
- It is made by a dental technician in a dental laboratory and fitted in your mouth by your dental practitioner

What are crowns made of?

Crowns can be made of:

- **Metal**: These are usually made of gold mixed with other metals. They are very strong and can last a very long time. They need less trimming of your tooth to make them fit and rarely chip or break. They are a very good choice for back teeth but are not the same colour as natural teeth
- **Porcelain**: These are tooth coloured and can be matched to the colour of your natural teeth. They are a good choice for front teeth but are not as strong as gold crowns and can chip or break if they are used on back teeth

Why do I need a crown?

Crowns are used when your tooth is badly damaged but needs to be kept. This might be because you have:

- A broken tooth
- A very large broken filling
- A root canal filling
- A misshapen or discoloured tooth

How is a crown made for me?

- Your tooth and gums will be numbed with an injection
- The dental practitioner will trim down the tooth that needs to be repaired to make room for the crown
- An impression (mould) of your mouth and teeth is taken with soft putty to make an exact copy of your trimmed down tooth. This makes sure the crown fits your tooth and mouth correctly
- The dental practitioner will make and fit a temporary crown to protect your trimmed down tooth while the dental technician makes your final crown. The temporary crown will not be the same shape and colour as your final crown
When your final crown is ready the dental practitioner will remove your temporary crown and check the fit and occlusion (bite) of your final crown. If you and the dental practitioner are happy with the crown it will be cemented (glued) into place.

What else should I know about crowns?

- Crowns are very strong and can last for 10 years or more if you take good care of them. Your dental practitioner will show you how to brush and floss your teeth and crown(s).

- Porcelain crowns can break or chip like natural teeth. It is important that you do not bite down on hard things or use your teeth and crown(s) to open or cut things.

- If your crown breaks or chips it can often be repaired or replaced. Sometimes the crown and tooth breaks and it cannot be repaired and the tooth may need to be extracted (taken out).

- Not all teeth can have crowns to repair them. If the tooth is very broken down or has a very large cavity it may need to be extracted (taken out).

Please ask your dental practitioner if you have any further questions about crowns.