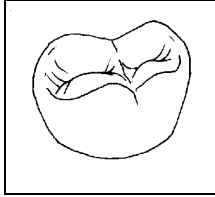


PREFORMED STAINLESS STEEL CROWNS

WHAT ARE THEY? A crown (cap) that covers the entire tooth as it appears in the mouth. The crown is fitted under the gum all the way around the tooth so that further decay is greatly inhibited.

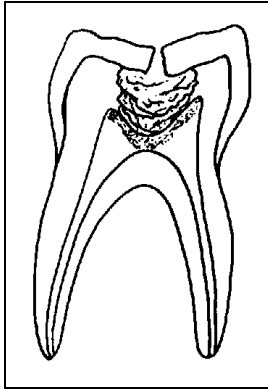


WHERE ARE THEY USED? They are used for primary teeth that have large cavities or that require a nerve treatment (pulpotomy) to save the tooth. They are also useful for permanent teeth with extensive decay to protect the tooth until the child is old enough for a permanent restoration. They are often the restoration of choice in children who grind their teeth since these crowns are much stronger than fillings.

ADVANTAGES? We can save teeth that are so extensively decayed that they will no longer hold a silver filling.

DISADVANTAGES? Occasionally a crown may come off due to eating caramels or other sticky foods. It can usually be re-cemented. There is a charge for re-cementing or re-making a crown after it has been in the mouth six months or longer.

NERVE TREATMENTS ON PRIMARY TEETH



WHAT ARE THEY? This is a modern method of saving a tooth by medicating the nerve of the tooth, or by removing the infected portion of the nerve. We call this "Pulp Capping, Pulpotomy, or Pulpectomy" depending on the specific kind of treatment performed.

WHY SAVE A BAD TOOTH LIKE THIS? If teeth are lost too soon, the "space" that they hold in the jaw for the permanent teeth will begin to close. This will lock the unerupted permanent tooth in the jaw. Collapsing of the bite may also occur due to shifting of the teeth. As the bite degenerates, braces and the possible removal of permanent teeth may be required.

ADVANTAGES? Saving the primary tooth allows it to act as the best possible space maintainer, maintains chewing function and minimizes additional complications.

DISADVANTAGES? About one in twenty (5%) of these teeth, even after this treatment, causes further trouble and has to be extracted. A space maintainer is generally needed in such cases.

