



### **POSTOPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR DENTAL CROWNS AND BRIDGES:**

1- Crowns and bridges usually take 2 or 3 appointments to complete. On the first appointment, the tooth/teeth are prepared, impressions are taken, and a temporary crown is placed on your tooth/teeth. On a subsequent appointment, the permanent crown is adjusted and permanently placed. There may be times when the dentist needs to allow an area time to heal and/or refine the tooth preparation prior to taking the final impression, especially in the case of recent extractions in conjunction with bridge preparation.

2- You may experience sensitivity, gum soreness, and slight discomfort on the tooth/teeth; this should subside a few days after the placement of the permanent crown(s).

3- When anesthesia is used, be careful during chewing until the numbness has worn off.

4- A temporary crown is usually made of plastic-based material or soft metal. It is placed to protect the tooth and prevent tooth movement, but it can break or become loose if too much pressure is placed on it. To avoid damaging or losing your temporary, do not chew on sticky or hard food (chewing gum, ice) and try to chew on the opposite side of the temporary as much as possible. In the rare event that the temporary crown comes off, it should be replaced as soon as possible; you should call our office immediately to have it replaced. If you are unable to come into the office and the temporary is intact, you may be able to use temporary dental cement available from the drugstore to replace it. First, gently clean out any remaining temporary cement with an item like a clean tooth pick, rinse and dry the temporary, and follow the instructions on the temporary cement packaging. Before placing the new cement in the crown, be sure you can orient it correctly, fully seat it on the tooth, and close completely. After it has set up the recommended amount of time, follow the cleaning instructions on the package or gently brush/floss around the crown.

5- Continue your normal brushing but be careful while flossing around the temporaries (remove the floss gently from the side). If it is difficult to get the floss between the temporary and surrounding teeth, refrain from flossing until you receive your permanent crown.

6- After the permanent restoration is placed you may feel slight pressure for a few days. Also, the bite may feel different for a day or two. But if after 2-3 days the bite still feels uneven or if you feel discomfort when chewing on the tooth, call our office. Delaying the necessary adjustments may damage the tooth permanently.

7- Call our office at 706-857-4850 if you are in pain or if you have any questions.