

Informed Consent

Prosthodontic Treatment

Crowns, Bridges, Veneers, Inlays and Onlays

Dental crowns are restorations that cover or cap teeth, restoring them to their natural size, shape and color. A crown not only helps with appearance, but can strengthen a tooth as well. A fixed, or stationary bridge is designed to replace teeth that have been lost. Missing teeth may need to be replaced for appearance, or to prevent or correct bite and gum problems related to shifting or stressed teeth. Sometimes a crown covering the entire tooth is not necessary and an inlay, onlay, or veneer is required. An inlay restores the chewing part of a tooth without covering the cusps; an onlay restores the chewing part including the cusps; and a veneer covers the front part of a tooth.

Dental crowns and bridges are made of ceramics/porcelain, resins or acrylics and may or may not have an inner layer of metal. Some may be made of metal alone. Dental inlays and onlays can be made of porcelain, resins, acrylic or metal; veneers are made without metal.

As with all procedures, there are certain potential problems associated with these restorations. These include, but are not limited to the following:

- Tooth sensitivity to heat, cold or air
- The potential need for **root canal therapy**. The cumulative effects of cavities, fillings and cracks in the teeth may necessitate a root canal. The need for a root canal may become apparent during a crown preparation, or after a crown is made.
- **Periodontal (gum) disease** can occur at any age, with or without these restorations. Generally speaking crowns, bridges, veneers, inlays and onlays, do not create or prevent gum disease.
- **Fractures** to the materials may occur after placement. Small fractures may be repaired, large fractures may require a new crown, bridge, veneer, inlay or onlay.
- **Dark lines at the gumline** may appear on crowns or fixed bridges lined with metal. This is the metal edge of the crown. If the gum recedes after placement, this metal will show. Sometimes this can be corrected, other times a new crown or bridge might be needed.
- **Recurrent tooth decay** can occur after placement. This may be corrected with a filling or a new crown or bridge might be needed.
- **Food impaction** may occur under a bridge or around other restorations. This may be an unavoidable condition. Meticulous home care is required.
- **Temporomandibular Joint Dysfunction** may occur due to changes in the bite following crowns, bridges, veneers, inlays and onlays. This can usually be corrected, but in rare occasions may cause symptoms requiring extensive treatment.

I understand the recommended treatment, the risks of such treatment, any alternatives have been explained to me and the risks of these alternatives, the consequences of doing nothing about my condition, and the fee(s) involved.

PatientSignature _____ Date _____

Witness _____