
THE GREAT SAGE



A Crowning Achievement

Restoring Teeth To Their Normal Function

When too much tooth structure has been lost due to decay or fracture [fig 1], the best treatment choice to restore the tooth to normal function and cosmetic appearance is often the fabrication of a crown (cap). Crowns are usually all ceramic or porcelain fused to metal depending on the situation and judgment of the dentist. The restoration of the damaged tooth becomes more of an esthetic concern if it is located near the front of one's mouth. How we perceive our smile and appearance affects our self-esteem, our moods and how we function in social and business relationships. So when this situation occurs, there is a sense of urgency.

The tooth is prepared [fig. 2 - cut into a conical shape] to allow enough room for the crown to fit over the tooth without extending too far and interfering with the person's occlusion (bite). This procedure usually takes 2 visits. In the first visit, a provisional acrylic crown is made and temporarily cemented over the tooth. In the second visit, the crown is "tried in" to see how accurately it fits and to check that the ceramic color chosen matches the surrounding



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



teeth. If both the patient and dentist are satisfied, the crown is permanently cemented or bonded to the tooth [fig. 3]. Call our office if you think you're a candidate for this type of procedure.

More great articles @ sagepointedental.com



St. Patrick's Day

Remember to wear your green
so you don't get pinched!

And your four leaf clover for fun!

Where your treasure is, there your
heart will be also.

Are Baby Teeth Important?

Baby teeth are very important to your child's development for a number of reasons. They encourage the development of the jaw bone and they reserve the space required for the permanent teeth that will follow. They also enable your child to chew solid food and assist in speech development. Moreover, they contribute to your child's positive feelings about his or her appearance and help build confidence.

It is important to begin a daily oral care routine for your child before the first tooth appears. After each feeding, wipe your child's gums with a warm, wet cloth or a small gauze pad to remove excess food and bacteria. As soon as the first teeth appear, brush them with a small, soft-bristled brush moistened with warm water.

When teeth begin to touch each other, add daily flossing to the routine. With adult supervision, most children are able to brush their own teeth by about age four, however, we recommend assisting your child at least once a day to ensure a thorough job. You should continue to monitor their oral care throughout childhood. Remember that with your own healthy oral care habits, you can be an important role model for your child.