

AMALGAM (SILVER) RESTORATIONS

Post Operative Instructions

A new restoration was given to you today. Your filling should last you for years, however, you need to be aware of the following information.

NUMBNESS

Your mouth may still be numb after the procedure if you were given a local anesthetic. It may not wear off for a few hours. Be VERY careful during this time because you can easily bite your cheeks, tongue, and lips. You may also be sensitive where the procedure was performed and around the injection site. For this you may rinse your mouth with warm salt water (1-teaspoon salt in a glass of warm water) several times a day for relief.

CHEWING

It will take the fillings 24 hours to reach their maximum strength. Until this time, only chew soft foods in the area of the fillings. Your teeth should feel normal after the numbness fades. If your new filling feels high, as though you hit it first (before other teeth), contact our office.

SENSITIVITY

Tooth structures conduct heat and cold slower than metal. You should expect some temperature sensitivity for a few days. Each tooth reacts differently and therefore it will depend on how long the sensitivity lasts. If the nerves of the tooth were unhealthy prior to this treatment, they may become symptomatic. Please contact our office if the sensitivity persists. Further treatment may be necessary.

CLEANING

Continue to brush and floss the amalgam filled tooth the same as other teeth. Good oral hygiene is required to stop further decay surrounding the filling. Remember, the removal of decay in one particular area does not stop tooth decay; it is your home care and routine dental visits.

LONGEVITY

The size of your filling will have a great deal to do with how long your filling lasts. The bigger they get the more likely they are to break, and the remaining tooth becomes weaker and more easily fractured

The filling(s) we placed today is (are):

- _ Small, with good longevity potential
- _ Moderate, with fair longevity potential
- _ Large, with questionable prognosis. A further treatment may be indicated to restore this tooth.

THE FUTURE

When problems are caught in the earliest stages, they can be corrected easily. Your hygiene and examination appointments are extremely important to prevent gum disease and find developing problems. You will always be aware of the overall health of your mouth so that you can make the best decisions for your future treatment. We are committed to providing you with the highest quality dental treatment available. However, only your continuing care can assure optimum service and longevity.