

## **CROWNS & BRIDGES**

Our teeth are the building blocks for excellent dental health. When a tooth is lost, weakened or decayed, not only does it affect appearance, but it affects function. Our teeth are designed to compliment and support each other. If one tooth is damaged, it must be repaired immediately before it causes damage to adjacent teeth.

At Dr. Amie Rockow-Nelson's office, we focus on maintaining the natural architecture of you mouth with crowns and bridges. Our approach is meticulous. Our care is personal and we encourage you to become involved in choosing the most natural shade for your new crown or bridge.

### **WHAT IS A CROWN?**

A crown is a restoration that covers your entire tooth to restore the normal size, shape and function to the damaged tooth. A crown will give your tooth strength and protect it from further breakdown.

#### **A crown is beneficial to you because it:**

- ❖ Restores the shape, contour and function of a tooth.
- ❖ Provides strength to a weakened tooth so that chewing is more comfortable.
- ❖ Transforms a stained, broken down tooth to one that is white and more natural looking.
- ❖ Will last longer than any other restoration.

### **HOW DOES A BRIDGE DIFFER FROM A CROWN?**

A bridge is used to permanently replace one or more missing teeth. For example, in the bridge making process, if one tooth is missing, one tooth on each side of the space will be crowned. A porcelain tooth, designed specifically for the space, is firmly attached to the crowns through a special laboratory process. This "3-unit" bridge is then placed directly in the area of the missing tooth, to permanently "bridge" the open space. I have found my patients to favor permanently attached dentistry in both appearance and chewing comfort, over removable tooth replacement methods.

#### **A bridge is beneficial to you because it:**

- ❖ Provides strength to a weakened tooth.
- ❖ Restores the shape, contour and function of a tooth.
- ❖ Prevents fractures.
- ❖ Corrects spacing and position problems.
- ❖ Improves color.
- ❖ Lasts as long as crowns and will not stain over time.
- ❖ Is a fixed solution compared to dentures or partials.

### **HOW DOES THIS PROCESS WORK?**

Because a special dental laboratory is involved, crown and bridgework require two appointments. At the first appointment your tooth is "prepared" to receive the crown or bridge. You will leave the first visit with a provisional crown or bridge to provide function until the permanent crown or bridge is placed. At the second visit, the provisional is easily removed and the permanent crown or bridge is place.

#### **Your comfort is our greatest concern.**

We ensure your comfort. We will not begin any procedure unless you are completely comfortable. We are pleased to offer you local anesthetic and nitrous oxide if you prefer.