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Instructions Following Placement of a Temporary Restoration

Today we placed a temporary restoration on your tooth. A temporary restoration is a filling or crown that is placed until the permanent filling or crown is made and ready to be placed. It is normal for the gum around your tooth to be a little sore when the anaesthesia wears off; using salt water rinses, which will speed up the healing of the gum tissues, can help this.

The temporary is very important; it protects the exposed tooth surface (dentin) so that it is not sensitive, prevents food from gathering in the preparation and prevents the prepared tooth from shifting and making the seating of the permanent crown more difficult. Use your toothbrush to clean the temporary as you normally would your other teeth. You will not be able to floss around the temporary as you may dislodge it.

If you have any questions concerning the temporary restoration, please feel free to call. Remember, it will only be a week or two, and it will be worth it when you get your beautiful, permanent restoration, and your smile back.

It is not uncommon to have any of the following reactions to problems with the temporary:

1. It feels rough.

Please call us if it is making your tongue sensitive.

2. It feels high.

Come in so we can adjust it. You can bruise the tooth if it is too high.

It is sensitive.

Since the temporary will not always sit as well as the permanent, there may be some sensitivity to hot and cold as well as chewing. However, if it is too uncomfortable, please call us.

4. It comes off.

This is probably the most common problem. It is designed so it can be removed again easily, but unfortunately, some foods can loosen it. Do you best to chew on the opposite side until your next appointment, and stay away from sticky foods or gum. If your temporary comes off, please call us so we can re-cement it for you.

5. This is not how I want the permanent tooth to look.

Don't worry! The permanent will look much better.