

CRACKED TOOTH SYNDROME

Teeth may crack when subjected to stress of chewing hard foods or ice, or by biting on an unexpected hard object. Teeth with or without restorations may exhibit this problem, but teeth restored with typical silver alloy restorations are most susceptible.

SYMPTOMS AND SIGNS MAY BE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Pain on chewing.
2. Pain with cold liquids.
3. Unsolicited pain (usually leakage of sugar into tooth crack.)
4. No radiographic evidence of problem.
5. No dental decay present.
6. Possible verification of crack when tooth is prepared for restoration.

TREATMENT FOR CRACKED TEETH:

1. **SIMPLE CRACK:** The majority of cracked teeth (about 7 out of 10) can be treated by placement of a simple crown (cap) on the tooth. When the tooth is prepared for the crown, and a temporary restoration is placed, the pain usually leaves immediately, If this is the case with your tooth, we will place the final crown without a problem on

your next appointment. The condition should then be solved.

2. **COMPLEX CRACK:** Occasionally (about 3 in 10) the tooth cracks into the pulp (nerve) of the tooth. If the pain persists after placement of the temporary crown, you may have a crack into the pulp of the affected tooth. Please call us. This tooth may require root canal therapy before the crown is placed. This requires one or two additional appointments before the crown is placed.