

TEMPORARY SEDATIVE FILLING

Today you received a temporary sedative restoration (filling). The filling is temporary and we will need to place a more definitive (permanent) restoration at a later date. Often, a sedative restoration is placed so that your tooth has a chance to recover from deep decay and/or to alleviate pain in an emergency situation until definitive treatment can be performed. This filling does not guarantee that your tooth will recover- you may eventually need a root canal in order to eliminate the infection from your tooth, or you may need to have the tooth taken out.

If we used anesthetic, avoid or be very careful chewing or eating hot foods until the numbness has worn off completely so that you do not bite or burn yourself. The numbing in the upper jaw will last approximately 1 hour, and the numbing in the lower jaw will last up to 4 hours. The gum tissue may have been irritated during the procedure and may be sore for a few days. The site where the anesthetic injection was given may also be sore for a few days. Your gums may also be sore. To reduce discomfort or swelling, rinse your mouth with warm salt water 3-4 times a day.

Avoid chewing on the side with the temporary filling for at least 24 hours. Do not eat or drink anything hot for at least 24 hours.

It is normal for small pieces of the filling to come off. Brush and floss normally. You may have some difficulty flossing near the temporary filling, but you should floss the rest of your teeth. Be gentle when brushing the tooth that has the temporary filling, but make sure to clean thoroughly.

Following a dental restoration, it is common for your teeth to be sensitive to hot, cold, or pressure. Using desensitizing toothpaste (Sensodyne®) can sometimes help with the discomfort. However, if your tooth was already sensitive before the temporary filling was placed, you may need additional treatment before the tooth feels completely better. Sensitivity may last several days to several months depending on how deeply the decay penetrated your tooth. The sensitivity is usually most noticeable the first 12 to 24 hours after the anesthetic wears off and then disappears slowly. If sensitivity persists beyond a few days or worsens after a couple days, please call us.

If you have been given a referral to see a specialist, please schedule that appointment as soon as possible so that the needs of your tooth can be addressed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call us at (215) 525-3046.