

# Information about stainless steel crowns for your child

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**This leaflet explains more about stainless steel crowns for your child and what you and your child can expect when you come to the clinic/hospital. If you have any further questions, please speak to the dentist.**

## What is a stainless steel crown?

- Stainless steel crowns can help to protect primary (baby) teeth.
- They are metal crowns that are made from stainless steel, and contain nickel and chrome.
- They are used to treat molars (back teeth) that have either decayed or not formed properly. The crowns are pre-made and come in a range of sizes. We will choose a stainless steel crown that will fit over your child's tooth and cover the entire crown of the tooth (the part that sits above the gum). We will then cement it in place.
- It is a stronger way to repair a tooth.
- They are usually only placed on primary/baby teeth and will fall out at the same time the baby tooth is lost and a permanent tooth erupts.

## Why does my child need a stainless steel crown?

To repair a tooth:

- with significant decay.
- which is soft due to poor quality enamel.
- following nerve/root treatment.
- with a large filling which is failing.

## What do they look like?

- A stainless steel crown is shiny and silver in appearance, leaving the tooth to be restored completely covered in silver.
- They are placed on back molar teeth so often are less noticeable than you might think.
- Children are usually pleased to have a shiny tooth rather than one with a hole in it.
- They can be referred to as a pirate tooth, princess tooth, jewelled tooth, silver cap or hat to children.



## Procedure

- Local anaesthesia may or may not be required.
- In most cases the Hall Technique is employed where no local anaesthesia is used and the crown is slotted over the tooth without any removal of decay. Any decay is sealed beneath the crown and will stop.
- If nerve/root treatment of the tooth is required, local anaesthesia and decay removal will be required prior to crown placement. If we have used local anaesthetic, the mouth will be numb. You should make sure your child does not bite their lip, cheek or tongue, or drink or eat hot food or liquid while the numbness is present.
- Once the size of the crown is selected it will be cemented in place. The patient is asked to bite down on a cotton wool roll to help it seat into position.
- The crown will feel tight on the tooth for the first couple of days. If you think your child needs it, provide painkillers such as paracetamol or ibuprofen. Speech and eating may be difficult at first. You may also notice that the crown appears 'high' in the bite, and your child may not be able to fully close their teeth together when it has first been put in. This usually settles within a few weeks.

## How long does a crown last?

The crown should stay in place until the baby tooth falls out naturally, when the permanent tooth underneath is ready to come through. There are cases where the crown wears through on the biting surface and needs to be replaced. Occasionally, the tooth with the crown on may need to be taken out before then.

## How do I help my child look after the crown?

The crowns will behave like a normal tooth and your child should treat it like one. They should brush it twice a day along with the other teeth.

## Will my child have a follow-up appointment?

We will agree a course of treatment with you and your child, and the fitting of the stainless steel crown will be part of it. On completion of treatment, your child will be discharged back to your dentist. They should continue to provide regular check-ups, and supportive preventative dental care throughout your child's time with us and also on discharge from our care.

If you have any further questions please feel free to ask your dentist or contact us:

### Community Dental Services

Newberry Child Development Centre, Lowestoft Road, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth NR31 6SQ

Tel: 01493 661460

### Feedback

We want your visit to be as comfortable as possible. Please talk to the person in charge if you have any concerns. If the ward/department staff are unable to resolve your concern, please ask for our Patient Advice and Liaison (PALS) information. Please be assured that raising a concern will not impact on your care. **Before you leave the hospital you will be asked to complete a Friends and Family Test feedback card.** Providing your feedback is vital in helping to transform NHS services and to support patient choice.

### Trust Values

#### Courtesy and respect

- A welcoming and positive attitude
- Polite, friendly and interested in people
- Value and respect people as individuals  
So people feel **welcome**

#### Attentively kind and helpful

- Look out for dignity, privacy & humanity
- Attentive, responsive & take time to help
- Visible presence of staff to provide care  
So people feel **cared for**

#### Responsive communication

- Listen to people & answer their questions
- Keep people clearly informed
- Involve people  
So people feel **in control**
- Effective and professional
- Safe, knowledgeable and reassuring
- Effective care / services from joined up teams
- Organised and timely, looking to improve  
So people feel **safe**



The hospital can arrange for an interpreter or person to sign to assist you in communicating effectively with staff during your stay. Please let us know.

**For a large print version of this leaflet, contact PALS 01493 453240**