



Donald L. Hardee, DDS, PA

Family, Esthetic, and Implant Dentistry

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Date: _____

Test Patient: _____

Address: _____

POST-OP CARE FOR CROWN AND BRIDGE

The temporary crown that you are wearing serves several purposes other than appearance. It protects the underlying tooth structure and gum. It also reduces the possibility of movement of your tooth. For these reasons, it is extremely important that you continue to wear the “temporary” until the new crown can be cemented. If it should come off before this time, we recommend that you slip the temporary back on the tooth and contact our office for a recementation appointment. If for some reason an office visit is impossible, a little denture adhesive or dent temp (from the drug store) or Vaseline may be placed in the temporary to add retention. A new crown may not fit properly on a tooth that has been without its temporary for several days. We recommend avoiding sticky foods (gum, candy, etc.), as they tend to remove temporaries. We also recommend “careful” flossing (pulling the floss out sideways when finished) so you will not dislodge the temporary.

Care of the gum is extremely important while the temporary is on the tooth. Light brushing once or twice a day is recommended and okay. Heavy scrubbing can damage the gum and cause irreversible recession. Remember, light brushing only. Warm salt water rinses will aid in returning the gum to its healthy appearance. It is normal for the gum to be slightly irritated after the first crown appointment. Lots of warm salt water rinses aid in gum healing. Other normal symptoms can be a little sensitivity and soreness. If necessary, Tylenol or a similar drug will usually handle the discomfort.

Your next visit will be to receive your “new crown”. Generally, the patients find this to be a shorter and easier appointment. Most patients do not require anesthesia for a second appointment. However, there will be some sensitivity while we adjust, cement, and clean around the crown. We will be happy to numb your tooth and gum if needed. It is important to us that you are comfortable. If you have any further questions, please call us at (252) 756-6626.