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POST OPERATIVE CROWN PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. ANYTIME WE WORK ON A TOOTH, WE HELP CAUSE AN "INFLAMMATION" (SWELLING) OF THE NERVE OF THE TOOTH. USUALLY, THIS CAUSES THE TOOTH TO BE MORE HOT AND COLD SENSITIVE. EXPECT SENSITIVITY TO HOT AND COLD FOR UP TO TWO WEEKS. THE SENSITIVITY SOMETIMES PERSISTS LONGER BUT SHOULD GRADUALLY DECREASE OVER TIME. TAKING AN ANTI-INFLAMMATORY DRUG; I.E. NUPRIN, ADVIL, ASPIRIN, OR TYLENOL FOR THE FIRST FEW DAYS FOR UP TO 2-3 WEEKS WILL HELP REDUCE THIS TOOTH INFLAMMATION AND HELP THE TOOTH HEAL BETTER. WE RECOMMEND TAKING A 400 MG. MOTRIN (IBUPROFEN) TABLET EVEN BEFORE THE LOCAL ANESTHETIC WEARS OFF.
2. WHEN A TOOTH HAS VERY DEEP DECAY CLOSE TO THE NERVE OF THE TOOTH (OR THE TOOTH HAS BEEN NERVE INVOLVED BUT YOU HAVE NOT HAD ANY PREVIOUS SYMPTOMS IN THE TOOTH), THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE TOOTH MAY BECOME NERVE INVOLVED. YOU WOULD TEND TO HAVE BITING PRESSURE TYPE PAIN WHERE THE TOOTH MAY THROB ON ITS OWN. PLEASE NOTIFY OUR OFFICE IF YOU SHOULD DEVELOP THIS TYPE OF PAIN.
3. PLEASE NOTIFY OUR OFFICE IF THE TEMPORARY CROWN SHOULD COME LOOSE, FALL OFF, OR SHOULD YOU FEEL LIKE YOU ARE BITING ON THE TEMPORARY FIRST.
4. THE GUM TISSUE WILL BE SOMEWHAT SORE AND TENDER, PARTICULARLY FOR THE FIRST FEW DAYS. YOU CAN USE ORABASE WITH BENZOCAINE TO HELP REDUCE THE PAIN AND SORENESS AROUND THE GUM TISSUE. NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE ANY SWELLING ON OR AROUND THE GUM TISSUE.
5. PLEASE DO NOT WORRY ABOUT DISLODGING THE TEMPORARY CROWN WITH A TOOTH BRUSH OR DENTAL FLOSS. YOU SHOULD BRUSH AND FLOSS THE AREA AS YOU NORMALLY WOULD USING LUKEWARM WATER. IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP THE AREA VERY CLEAN.
6. IT TAKES TWO WEEKS TO HAVE THE CROWN CONSTRUCTED. WE LIKE TO INSERT THE CROWN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE CROWN IS CONSTRUCTED TO ASSURE PROPER FIT AND TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING MORE COMFORTABLE THAN A TEMPORARY CROWN.
7. IT IS NORMAL TO HAVE SOME ROOT SENSITIVITY AROUND THE CROWN AFTER IT IS CEMENTED IN PERMANENTLY. THIS WILL DECREASE IN TIME. WE HAVE FOUND THAT USING A TOOTHPASTE WITH POTASSIUM NITRATE IN IT (AQUAFRESH SENSITIVE) AND A DAILY FLUORIDE (FLUORIGARD OR ACT) MOUTHRINSE HELPS REDUCE THIS SENSITIVITY.
8. FULL GOLD CROWNS ARE STURDIER THAN PORCELAIN TO PRECIOUS METAL CROWNS. FULL GOLD CROWNS ARE A LITTLE KINDER TO THE OPPOSING TOOTH WHILE THE PORCELAIN ON PORCELAIN TO PRECIOUS METAL CROWNS CAN CHIP OR FRACTURE (ALTHOUGH THIS IS FAIRLY RARE). FULL GOLD CROWNS ARE YELLOW GOLD COLORED WHILE PORCELAIN TO PRECIOUS METAL CROWNS ARE TOOTH COLORED. WE PREFER TO USE FULL GOLD CROWNS IN PLACE OF PORCELAIN TO PRECIOUS METAL CROWNS ON CERTAIN MOLAR TEETH WHERE YOU FEEL THE TOOTH IS NOT NOTICEABLE. PLEASE NOTIFY US WITHIN A COUPLE OF DAYS AT MOST AS TO YOUR PREFERENCE.
9. PLEASE NOTIFY US IF YOU DEVELOP SWELLING AROUND THE GUM TISSUE, IF THE TEMPORARY CROWN SHOULD COME LOOSE OR FEEL HIGH TO YOU, OR IF YOU DEVELOP A CONSTANT THROBBING TYPE OF PAIN MOTRIN DOES NOT SEEM TO HELP.