

Stainless Steel Crown - Conventional

Information for Parents

- Stainless steel crowns are used routinely for deciduous or baby teeth by dentists and therapists around the world.
- The stainless steel crown has a 95% success rate and is more durable than a white or silver amalgam filling. It helps seal the tooth from bacteria.
- Our service uses two techniques to place a stainless steel crown. For information on the Hall Technique, please refer to the Hall Technique information sheet.



Indications

A stainless steel crown acts like a “crash helmet” to protect the underlying tooth and is placed on some baby teeth to strengthen and protect the tooth if:

- The tooth has had root canal treatment (pulpotomy)
- If there is too little tooth left to place a strong enough filling.
- A tooth where the enamel has not developed properly.
- A child with a high decay rate.

The procedure

1. The baby tooth is numbed using topical (surface) and local anaesthetic (injection).
2. After debris is removed, the tooth is prepared and trimmed to specific dimensions and a stainless steel crown, tried on and then cemented onto the tooth.

Home care

- The crown remains on the tooth, until the baby tooth naturally wiggles out.
- It will still need to be cleaned well with a toothbrush to prevent plaque build-up.
- Occasionally, a crown may come off (especially if a very hard sticky food is eaten) or develop an abscess around it - so regular reviews and care are necessary.
- The surface may wear down, especially if the child grinds his/her teeth. This can usually be repaired.
- Most children are not bothered by their appearance and are even proud of their smooth, shiny "robot tooth" or "princess crown".
- The crown contains nickel-chromium - let therapist know if child has metal allergy.