the treatment centre

Hall crowns for children

A guide for parents and carers

A Hall crown is a small silver cap that covers a decayed baby back tooth. It seals in the decay and helps keep the tooth comfortable until it falls out naturally. For suitable teeth, it is fitted without drilling, injections or removing decay.

What the crown looks like



Before



After fitting

Making space for the crown

If the teeth are close together, small elastic rings (separators) are placed between them for a few days. At the next appointment, the dentist removes the rings and fits the crown.

The silver crown covers the tooth and seals in the decay.

How long does it stay on?

The crown is intended to stay on until the baby tooth falls out, usually coming out with it. Occasionally it may loosen or wear through and need replacing.

What will my child feel?

Fitting can feel tight and the cement may taste unpleasant. The tooth may be tender for a day or two. The bite can feel high at first and usually settles over a few weeks.

If pain relief is needed

Children's paracetamol, such as Calpol, may help if suitable. Follow the correct product's age, dose and timing instructions. Do not also give another medicine containing paracetamol. Ask a pharmacist if unsure.

While separators are in place

Keep brushing, but do not floss or use an interdental brush at contacts containing a ring. Avoid picking at the rings. If one comes out, contact us; do not replace it yourself. Keep the crown-fitting appointment.

Looking after the crown

Brush twice daily with fluoride toothpaste, including around the gumline. Help your child clean between the teeth daily with floss, or an interdental brush where it fits. We can show you how. Spit out after brushing; do not rinse.

Keeping the tooth healthy

Keep sugary foods and drinks to mealtimes and attend regular checks. A good seal is important, but pain or infection can still develop and further treatment may be needed.

Your dentist will explain whether a Hall crown is suitable and discuss alternatives, such as a filling or removing the tooth.

Please contact us

If pain continues or worsens, there is swelling, or the crown becomes loose or comes off.

Photos: Innes, Evans, Stewart & Keightley, The Hall Technique Guide, v4 (2015), Fig. 1. Resized only.
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