

521 • 522 • 523

## Treatment for Front Teeth with White Fillings

### Risk of non-treatment/ delay treatment:

Holes (tooth decay) become deeper and bigger, decay may develop or bacteria may progress into the nerve. Tooth decay could develop beyond repair, dental pain, dental abscess, facial infection needing emergency attention may result.

### What you need to know about white fillings for front teeth

- The white filling will change colour over time.
- The white filling can come off (partially or completely) easily.
- Lifespan of a white filling is approximately 1 to 2 years or less in some cases.
- The filling may need repair or replacement if there is recurrent decay, leakage, partial or complete dislodgement of the filling.
- Each time a filling is being replaced, the hole will inevitably get bigger; deeper, and closer to the nerve.

- As the hole gets bigger and deeper, the tooth may ultimately require root canal treatment or extraction when beyond repair.
- Your child may have allergic reaction to the ingredient of the filling material.
- If holes in the teeth were very deep initially, sometime those teeth may have potential to develop dental infection in future including abscess, pain or even facial infection. If these conditions develop, the teeth need to be extracted and antibiotics might have to be taken.
- Your child may need another general anaesthetic appointment or more visits at our clinic to have the infected tooth extracted, more cost will be incurred to perform the treatment.



## 525 • Composite Crowns for Front Primary Teeth

### Risk of non-treatment/ delay treatment:

Holes (tooth decay) become deeper and bigger, decay may develop or bacteria may progress into the nerve. Tooth decay could develop beyond repair, dental pain, dental abscess, facial infection needing emergency attention may result.

### Important information about White Fillings of the decayed Front Primary Teeth

- The treated teeth will have long-term ongoing treatment needs. White fillings need to be monitored and repaired regularly because they tend to break more easily. Your child needs to see the dentist regularly to monitor and repair these fillings when needed.
- The fillings are generally white plastic filling materials, very rarely, some children may be allergic to these materials.

- The placement of fillings often results in a changed 'bite' and your child may take a few days to weeks to adjust to their new bite.
- The fillings or teeth over time may break resulting in more decay.
- Fillings wear and tear over time (at different rates in different individuals).
- Within two years of placement, a filling will likely require replacement.



## 525 • Composite Crowns for Front Primary Teeth

- If the extent of the defect/decay in the teeth were initially very deep prior to the placement of the filling, sometimes those teeth can still develop dental infection (including abscess, pain or even facial infection). If this happens, the teeth need to be promptly extracted and antibiotics prescribed.
- Your child may need another general anaesthetic visit or more visits to have the teeth removed and may require taking oral antibiotics.

### Gum Management around the tooth to be filled, if the tooth to be treated is only partially erupted

- When the tooth is only partially erupted and still covered by gum, it is not possible to provide a filling in those circumstances
- In some circumstances, a temporary filling may be used to prevent the hole from getting bigger. At a later date, when the tooth has erupted, replacement with a new filling will be required.
- In other circumstances, the gum covering the tooth might need to be removed, a laser or a diathermy can be used to remove (cut) the area of gum covering the tooth, then a proper filling can be inserted.
- After the gum is cut, it would result in some pain or swelling of the gum and in very rare occasions, gum infection (requiring antibiotics to be taken).

### Future Treatment of the filled Front Primary Teeth

- All treated / filled teeth will eventually have high treatment needs in the future. Your child may require another general anaesthetic appointment in the future to perform a second phase of treatment (for example timed extractions of the affected teeth).
- It is therefore important to focus on prevention of dental decay by having good oral hygiene habits, fluoride exposure and a healthy diet. Please ask us if you have questions about tooth-friendly food and drinks.
- If the teeth could be maintained till adulthood, full coverage crowns (Gold, Porcelain) will usually be required and Root Canal Treatment may eventually be required or ultimately the treated teeth may need to be extracted and have replacement dentures, bridges or implants.

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Before

After

Before

After

Examples of troublesome *Opercula* before & after their removal (*Operculectomy*)