

Stainless Steel Crown Restoration via Hall Crown Technique

Information and Post-Op Instructions

What is it? The restoration of a tooth using the Hall Crown Technique (HCT) is defined by the placement of a stainless steel crown (SSC) over an unprepared, unexcavated primary molar, usually without the use of local anesthesia (numbing shots/injections). Not all teeth are eligible for treatment using this technique, as it is only indicated to treat asymptomatic, vital teeth. Teeth that have been causing pain and/or demonstrate radiographic evidence of decay entering into the pulp of the primary tooth, or are otherwise associated with infection/abscess, are not eligible for this type of treatment.



Advantages

1. In certain cases can help an extremely fearful dental patient to delay, and in some cases avoid, dental treatment under General Anesthesia
2. This restorative method has a very high success rate (up to 97%) when used to treat appropriately diagnosed teeth
3. Usually, to place a stainless steel crown via this technique there is no need for any numbing injection

Potential Disadvantages

1. Esthetics - silver-colored crown that should remain in the mouth until the restored tooth naturally exfoliates (primary molars typically fall out anywhere between 10 and 14 years of age)
2. Potential for misdiagnosis of the tooth's condition (Kiddos often have a tough time providing an accurate history of symptoms) could result in the need for future treatment (i.e - If the tooth abscesses it could need to be extracted)
3. Usually requires multiple appointments (one for when orthodontic elastic separators are placed, a second for crown cementation)
4. Patient could develop feelings of soreness as the altered bite can take up to 30 days to feel normal (though usually this soreness goes away much sooner); can treat discomfort with OTC Tylenol or Advil, as tolerated

It is usually recommended on pediatric patients with the intention of restoring baby molars. According to the Guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) and the American Dental Association (ADA), restoring an appropriately diagnosed baby molar with a stainless steel crown in this way is an acceptable alternative to a traditional restoration. Though treatment of a tooth with this method is intended to be definitive (last as long as the tooth is supposed to be in the mouth), it is possible that the tooth may require additional treatment(s) in the future.

