

## What is a crown?

A dental crown/onlay is a tooth coloured permanently fixed restoration. Crowns are made to cover an entire tooth or the biting surface. You may have heard them referred to as 'caps'. Crowns are made to be the same shape and size as your natural tooth and are then permanently cemented onto your tooth. When affixed, the crown fully encases the tooth that sits above the gum line. Crowns can be made of a variety of different materials including ceramic and zirconia.

At Clarity Dental Care, all crowns (except implant crowns) are fabricated and placed on site using our state of the art CAD/CAM technology

Your dentist may recommend a crown to:

- Replace a large filling when there isn't enough natural tooth structure remaining
- Protect a weak tooth from fracturing
- Restore a fractured tooth
- Cover a dental implant
- Cover a discolored or poorly shaped tooth
- Cover a tooth that has had a Root Canal Treatment

## What is a bridge?

A bridge is a fixed dental restoration (a fixed dental prosthesis) used to fill a gap created by one or more missing teeth. It is mounted/cemented onto the existing teeth or implants. There are several different types of bridges

**Traditional Bridge** - The most commonly used type of bridge. Traditional bridges are made of a ceramic or zirconia material. With a traditional bridge, a crown is created for the tooth next to the gap present and a pontic (imitation tooth) is attached to the crown.

**Cantilever Bridges** - Where one crowned tooth supports an imitation tooth. A cantilever bridge is best suited for the replacement of teeth forward of the molars.

**Resin-Bonded Bridges or Maryland Bridges** - Resin-bonded bridges, also known as Maryland bridges, is a bridge that consists of a 'wing' which is bonded to the back of a tooth. The wing is attached to and supports the imitation tooth.

At Clarity Dental Care, all bridges are fabricated and placed on site using our state of the art CAD/CAM technology

## What is the procedure for crowns and/or bridges?

### Prior to treatment

- A consultation from your dentist to discuss costs, aesthetic desires such as colour, and to answer any questions or concerns
- A full dental clean to ensure gum health is optimum
- Teeth whitening is also an option if you wish to brighten your teeth prior to the veneers/ crowns/bridges.

**\*\*\* A dental clean is essential 4 weeks prior to any crown or bridge procedures associated with the front teeth, failure to have a dental clean can result in refusal of treatment\*\*\***

### Tooth Preparation

- A small amount of tooth structure is removed from the entire tooth crown or part of the crown so that there is adequate space for the ceramic material for strength. Also the restoration will not appear to bulky or over contoured
- The upper and lower teeth are then scanned using our Cerec™ machine to make a 3D representation of your mouth
- Your crown/s and/or bridges are then designed, milled and cemented here on site by your Dentist
- Your bite is checked thoroughly to make sure you are comfortable before leaving your appointment
- On the day of the appointment we will see you in the morning for the preparation of the tooth/teeth and we will ask you to return in afternoon for the fit.

### How do you look after crowns and bridges?

Crowns and bridges can last a long time, but, a lot depends on how you take care of them and the surrounding areas. There are several steps to take to ensure your crowns and/or bridges stay in optimum condition.

- Maintaining good oral health by brushing and flossing twice a day and also having 6 monthly examinations and dental cleans (a full demonstration of correct flossing techniques are given if a bridge is placed). **Failure to maintain your oral health can void the 12 month warranty**
- Breaking habits such as nail biting, opening bottle tops with your teeth and biting/holding pens in between your teeth
- **Ensuring that if a custom made occlusal splint has been recommended and made, it must be worn nightly, otherwise it will void your 12month warranty.**

### Potential Risks and Complications

1. In preparing the tooth/ teeth for a crown, it is necessary to reduce the surface of the tooth to which the crown will be bonded. This preparation will be done as conservatively as possible. If the crown breaks or comes off, the uncovered tooth may become more susceptible to decay/sensitivity if left untreated.
2. Even though in the majority of the cases there is usually no appreciable sensitivity, treatment may cause the tooth/ teeth to become sensitive. This sensitivity is usually transitional and settles within a period of a few days to one month. Should sensitivity persist for any length of time, please contact Clarity Dental Care.
3. No matter how well a crown or bridge is placed, chipping, breaking or loss of the crown/bridge can occur. Many factors can contribute to this happening, including chewing of excessively hard materials, changes in bite, traumatic blows to the mouth or grinding or clenching of the teeth.
4. Every possible effort will be made to match and coordinate both the shape and shade of the crown/bridge to be aesthetically pleasing to the patient. However, there are some differences that may exist between the natural tooth and the ceramic materials, making it almost impossible to have the exact shade. Therefore teeth whitening is optional before the procedure.

5. Periodontal disease can occur at any age, with or without crowns or bridges. Properly designed crowns/bridges aid in the prevention, as does good oral hygiene, regular cleaning and dental examinations, a healthy diet and good general health.
6. There are always risks associated with having live teeth reduced for crowns/bridges. Due to the tooth needing to be reduced, there is a risk that this can aggravate the nerve, resulting in it becoming inflamed or dying and the tooth needing Root Canal Treatment or extraction. If this occurs the Root Canal Treatment can usually be completed without removing the crown/bridge/veneer. However, in some instances, the longevity of the crown/bridge may be compromised.
7. Tooth decay may occur on areas of the tooth not covered by the crown. Tooth decay around the margins is usually a key component inquiring the replacement of the crown/bridge.
8. All crown/bridges have a warranty of 12 months, only if the guidelines provided have been met. For instance, wearing of the occlusal splint nightly is a must if recommended.

In signing this form, I acknowledge that I have been given full opportunity to ask any and all questions I might have about the treatment I am to receive at Clarity Dental Care. I agree that I have read and understand all the information supplied to me in regards to this treatment

Patient/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_