



Post-Op Amalgam (Silver) Filling

We have just finished your new silver (Amalgam) filling(s). Here is some important post-operative information that applies to this time-tested restoration. When anesthesia has been used, your lips, teeth, and tongue may be numb for several hours after the appointment. Avoid any chewing until the numbness has completely worn off. It is easy to bite or burn your tongue or lips while numb.

With silver fillings, you should not chew hard or sticky foods, or chew directly on the new fillings for the first 24 hours. If possible, chew only on the opposite side of your mouth. New silver fillings can be sensitive to hot and cold liquids and other foods. Your gums may also be sore after your appointment.

Sometimes, due to the effects of the local anesthesia, it is quite difficult to make sure that your bite is exactly right. If you feel any discomfort in chewing, please let us know. A minor adjustment is usually all it takes to make you comfortable. Don't wait too long! Teeth can become quite sensitive if the bite is "high." You can generate in excess of 40,000 pounds per square inch when chewing on your back teeth. Fillings which have not had the appropriate amount of time to harden, or are "high," cannot stand this kind of pressure and may break.

It is recommended that you take some ibuprofen (Motrin or Advil, 1-2 tablets every 4-6 hours as needed) before the anesthetic completely wears off. This will help with any swelling or pain at the injection sites where the anesthetic was administered. If the sensitivity should continue for longer than two weeks, or if the discomfort is extreme, please give us a call so that we can evaluate the situation and prescribe the appropriate therapy.