

Aliso Creek Dental

(949) 362-3848

CRACKED-TOOTH SYNDROME

You may have a very commonly occurring dental problem.

Teeth may crack when subjected to the stress of chewing hard foods, ice or hard objects. Teeth with or without restorations(fillings) may exhibit this problem, but teeth restored with typical silver alloy or tooth-colored restorations are most susceptible. Older persons have more cracked teeth than younger people.

SYMPTOMS AND SIGNS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING

1. Pain on chewing
2. Pain on cold-air application
3. Unsolicited pain (This is usually leakage of sugar into the tooth cracks)
4. No x-ray evidence of the problem
5. Dental decay is not present
6. Easy verification of the crack by the dentist when the tooth is prepared for restoration

TREATMENT OF CRACKED TEETH

1.Simple Crack: The majority of cracked teeth can be treated by placement of a simple crown (cap) on the tooth. When the tooth is prepared for the crown and a temporary restoration is placed, the pain usually leaves immediately. If this is the case with your tooth, we will place the final crown without a problem on your next appointment. The condition should then be solved.

2. Complex Crack: Occasionally, the tooth cracks into the pulp (nerve) of the tooth. If pain persists after placement of the temporary crown, you may have a crack into the pulp of the affected tooth. Please call us. This tooth may require endodontics (root canal therapy) before the crown is placed. This procedure may require about two additional appointments before the crown is placed.

3. Unrestorable Crack: Occasionally, if tooth is cracked vertically. Tooth will still be symptomatic after root canal therapy and crown. The tooth is then non-salvageable. The tooth will need extraction. An implant or fixed bridge can be placed to replace the missing tooth.