

BARTH FAMILY DENTISTRY, PSC

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Cracked Tooth Syndrome

Teeth may crack when subjected to stress of chewing hard foods, ice, or by biting on an unexpectedly hard object. Teeth can also become cracked by night time grinding which about 95% of the population grind at night regardless of if they are aware of it or not. Teeth with or without decay and/or fillings may exhibit this problem, but teeth restored with large silver fillings are by far the most commonly cracked teeth.

Symptoms and Signs:

1. Pain on chewing
2. Pain on release or opening after biting down.
3. Unsolicited pain (usually with sugar into tooth crack)
4. No evidence of problem on X- Ray (X-rays are 2 Dimensional and fractures often do not appear on X-rays)
5. No dental decay present
6. Easy verification of crack when tooth is prepped for crown or Root Canal Therapy
7. Sometimes can see crack line with the naked-eye upon clinical examination.

Treatment for cracked teeth:

1). Simple Crack:

The majority of cracked teeth (about 9 out of 10 teeth) can be treated by placement of a simple crown (cap) on the tooth. When the tooth is prepared for a crown, and the temporary is placed, the pain usually begins to subside immediately. If this is the case, we will place the final crown on your next appointment and condition should be solved.

2). Complex Crack:

Occasionally (about 1 in 10 teeth), the tooth cracks in to the pulp (nerve) of the tooth. If the pain persists after placement of the temporary, you may have a crack into the pulp of the affected tooth. Call your dentist and let them know. This tooth may require Endodontic treatment (Root Canal Therapy) before the crown is placed. This requires an additional appointment before the crown is placed. If crack and pain are significant, the tooth may need to be extracted and replaced with an implant, bridge, or partial denture.