



## **Post Operative Care for Temporary, Medicated Fillings**

The doctor places a temporary medicated filling in a tooth because the decay in the tooth was very deep and close to the nerve. When a cavity is this deep, there's no telling exactly how the nerve will respond. In other cases, a permanent filling was previously placed, and the nerve responded by becoming painful. The permanent filling needs to be removed and replaced with the temporary filling to see if that calms the nerve.

### ***First 24 Hours***

- ◆ Do not eat while numb – you can bite or burn your lips, gum tissue, or cheek.
- ◆ After numbness wears off, evaluate your bite; it should feel normal and even. Check for sharp edges and call the office if you need to schedule a quick adjustment.
- ◆ Soreness at the injection site(s) and sore jaw muscles is expected; use over-the-counter pain relievers to help ease your discomfort.
- ◆ Keep a soft diet and try to chew on the opposite side for 24 hours.
- ◆ You may brush and floss normally after this treatment.

**Parents: Please make sure your child does not “play” with or bite their numb lip and cheek. Sores and general irritation will develop and become very uncomfortable once the anesthetic has worn off.**

### ***What to Expect***

- ◆ While the temporary filling is in place, it's important to monitor your symptoms (if any). Anything (other than some sensitivity to cold) is abnormal. The tooth should not start to bother you suddenly, be sensitive to hot foods/drinks, or begin throbbing.
- ◆ If you experience **any** symptoms, the tooth becomes bothersome, or you aren't sure if what you are feeling is normal, please call the office.
- ◆ If your tooth feels normal after two weeks, you **MUST** make an appointment (if you don't already have one) to have the temporary filling removed and replaced with a final restoration.

**\*\* Remember – you have a *temporary* filling. The material is not meant to be in your tooth any longer than a few weeks; the filling will begin to break down, allowing saliva and bacteria into the tooth which leads to more decay. If bacteria reach the nerve, a root canal will be needed.**