

How long will a crown last?

The crown should stay in place until the baby tooth falls out naturally. This will happen when the adult tooth underneath is ready to come through. Occasionally, the tooth with the crown on might need to be taken out before then.

There are cases where the crown wears through on the surface and needs to be replaced.

Follow-up appointment

Your child might have a course of treatment, and having a stainless steel crown will be part of it. Speak to your dentist about follow-up appointments, and what happens after having a crown.

After hospital treatment, your child will be cared for by your local dentist. They will provide regular check-ups, and dental care.

Giving my permission (consent)

We want to involve you in decisions about your child's care and treatment. If you decide to go ahead, you will be asked to sign a consent form. This states that you agree for your child to have the treatment and you understand what it involves. If you would like more information about our consent process, please speak to a member of staff caring for your child.

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about stainless steel crowns, contact the paediatric dental team on **phone** 020 7188 7188

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit **web** www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk/leaflets

Evelina London Medicines Helpline

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's medicines, please speak to the staff caring for them or contact our helpline.

Phone 020 7188 3003 Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm

Email letstalkmedicines@gstt.nhs.uk

Your comments and concerns

For advice, support or to raise a concern, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS). To make a complaint, contact the complaints department. **phone** 020 7188 8801 (PALS)

email pals@gstt.nhs.uk

phone 020 7188 3514 (complaints)

email complaints2@gstt.nhs.uk

Your child's dental care: stainless steel crowns

This leaflet explains stainless steel crowns for your child, and what you and your child can expect when you come to hospital.

If you have any questions, please speak to the dentist caring for your child.

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A list of sources is available on request

What is a stainless steel crown?

Stainless steel crowns can help to protect baby (primary) teeth. They are used to treat back teeth (molars) that have either decayed or not formed properly.

They can be used so the damaged or weak tooth does not need to be removed. Or be used for larger holes in the back teeth, as they last longer than a filling.

A crown will help to protect the tooth and keep a space in the mouth for the adult tooth to grow into.

When preparing the tooth for the crown, the dentist might find more decay than expected. If this happens, the tooth will need to be removed rather than use a crown.

What do they look like?

They are metal crowns that are made from stainless steel, and contain nickel and chrome. They are bright and metallic.

They are placed on back teeth so are less noticeable than you might think. Children are usually pleased to have a shiny tooth rather than one with a hole in it.



Stainless steel crowns on back molar teeth

The crowns are pre-made and come in different sizes. Your dentist will choose a stainless steel crown that fits over your child's tooth and covers the part of the tooth that sits above the gum (the crown).

Having a stainless steel crown

Treatment usually involves cleaning and shaping the tooth so it is ready for the crown, before fixing the crown in place.

Local anaesthetic

This can be done while your child is awake using local anaesthetic. This is an injection into the mouth, which numbs the area so your child cannot feel any pain. This takes around 30 minutes.

If your child is having local anaesthetic, they should eat and drink as usual before the procedure. They can go back to school after the treatment.

General anaesthetic

This treatment can be done under general anaesthetic. This means your child is asleep during treatment. If your child is having a general anaesthetic you will be given information about preparing.

Other options

If a child is very anxious, treatment can be done with no local anaesthetic or drilling of the tooth. Instead, the dentist can push the crown into place over the tooth. This will need to be discussed with your dentist.

After treatment

Pain after having a stainless steel crown

After treatment, the crown can feel tight to begin with. This can last for a couple of days. Make sure you have paracetamol or ibuprofen at home if your child needs it.

Looking after your child's mouth

If your child had local anaesthetic, their mouth will be numb after treatment.

- Make sure they do not bite their lip, cheek or tongue.
- They should not drink or eat hot food or liquid while their mouth is numb.

Speech and eating might feel different at first.

You might notice that the crown appears 'high', and your child cannot fully close their teeth together. This usually settles within a few weeks.

Looking after a stainless steel crown

The crowns will behave like a normal tooth, and your child should treat it like one.

They should brush it twice a day along with the other teeth, and floss between the teeth as they usually would.