CROWN AND BRIDGE:

Crowns may be recommended for you for many reasons. They are commonly prescribed when a tooth has a large filling, or a filling that replaces a cusp on a posterior tooth. A crown may also be recommended for teeth with vertical fractures or “cracks”, or following root canal therapy. Crowns cover the tooth much like a thimble would cover the end of your finger. By covering the tooth in such manner, the tooth can be protected against further damage, decay, and help prevent fracture. Crowns and bridges are excellent restorations and usually give many years of service. We are not surprised to see crowns and bridges last 20 to 30 years.

Bridges are used to replace teeth that have been lost. They are a very aesthetic answer to problems with missing teeth. The teeth on either side of the space are used to hold the pontic (“fake”) tooth in place, and the procedures to produce a bridge are very similar to that of making a crown. Post-operative instructions for crown and bridge then are as follows:

1. Crowns and bridges usually take 2 appointments to complete. On the first appointment, the tooth/teeth are prepared and impressions are taken. A temporary crown is place on your tooth/teeth at the end of the appointment. Your permanent crown will be delivered in about 2 weeks.
2. While wearing the temporary crown, we ask that you avoid chewing on anything for one hour after placement. After that time, normal chewing is allowed, but we ask that you avoid hard foods (such as raw carrots), and sticky foods as well. Sticky foods may dislodge the temporary crown. Should this occur, you may place it back into position with slight finger pressure, and it should remain in place. If you have a problem with it being loose, or not staying in place, call our office to have the temporary re-cemented. Please remember to bring the temporary crown along in with you otherwise a new one will have to be made.
3. Brush and floss all of your teeth (including this one) while wearing the temporary crown. We recommend flossing down toward the gum, and then pulling it out the side to prevent dislodging the temporary.
4. At the second appointment, we will seat and cement your permanent crown/bridge. We again ask that you avoid chewing on it for one hour to allow the cement to “set”. After the cement has set, you may resume normal chewing with no limitations.
5. Make sure that you brush and floss around your crown to increase its life expectancy. We will examine your crowns as part of your normal checkup routine.
6. Some sensitivity around your new crown/bridge may exist for a few days, or even a few weeks, but should improve with time. If you have any problems, or feel that your “bite” is not balanced, please call our office, and we will help you with it.