

## CRACKED-TOOTH SYNDROME

Often, teeth may crack when subjected to the stress of chewing hard foods, ice or hard objects, or just from normal chewing. Teeth with or without restorations (fillings) may exhibit this problem, but teeth restored with silver amalgam or tooth colored restorations are more 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. Pain when eating sweets
4. X-ray evidence of the problem is NOT usually present but visually or by passing light through the tooth it can be detected
5. Dental decay is or is not present
6. Sometimes verification of the crack can be noticed by the dentist when the tooth is prepared for restoration
7. Pain exists when tooth sleuth test is performed

### Treatment of Cracked Teeth:

1. **Simple Crack:** The majority of cracked teeth (about 85%) can be treated by the placement of a simple crown (cap) on the tooth. When the tooth is prepared for the crown, a temporary is placed, and the pain usually leaves within a few days. We will have you back for a follow up to make sure this is the case. We will then place the final crown on your next appointment. This should solve the condition.
2. **Complex Crack:** Occasionally, (about 13%) the tooth cracks into the pulp (nerve) of the tooth. If pain persists after the placement of the temporary crown, you may have a crack into the pulp(nerve) of the effected tooth. We will evaluate for this on the follow up appointment. The tooth may require root canal therapy before the crown is placed.
3. **Tooth Cracked in Half:** Occasionally, (about 2%) a tooth cracks into two separate pieces. Sometimes this is easily visualized on x-rays and other times can only be noticed during the Root canal. If this occurs the tooth will need to be extracted.