

Deep Fillings

Sensitivity

Some people feel sensitivity after they receive a filling. The tooth may be sensitive to pressure, air, sweet foods or cold. Composite (tooth coloured) fillings often cause sensitivity, but other types of filling materials can, too.

In most cases, the sensitivity will subside over one to two weeks. Until then, try to avoid anything that causes it. If your tooth is extremely sensitive or your sensitivity does not decrease after two weeks, contact the dental practice for advice or an appointment.

The next time you need a filling, let your us know about any sensitivity you have had in the past we may be able to use a different material and make changes to reduce sensitivity. People vary in their response to different materials, unfortunately we have no way of predicting if your tooth will react to a particular material.

If you have sensitivity and need to speak to us, try to describe as precisely as possible how it feels. This information will help us decide what should be done next. We may take out the filling and put in a new one, add a base, liner, or desensitising agent on the tooth. If the filling was very deep, you could need a root canal treatment to solve the problem.

Other Discomfort

Besides sensitivity, some people feel discomfort when they bite down. There are two types of pain, each with a different cause:

High Point

This occurs when you bite and worsens over time. This is caused by a filling that is too high and interferes with your bite. Once your anaesthetic (numbness) wears off, you would notice this right away. Contact the practice straightaway and an appointment will be made. You will need to return to the practice to have the filling reshaped.

Galvanic Shock

This discomfort is a very sharp shock that appears only when your teeth touch. This is called galvanic shock. It is caused by two metals (one in the newly filled tooth and one in the tooth it's touching) producing an electric current in your mouth. This would happen, for example, if you had a new amalgam filling in a bottom tooth and had a gold crown in the tooth above it.

The filling is polished after it is placed, but occasionally sharp edges may remain. You can't detect this at first because of the anaesthesia (numbness). If you find an area, contact the



practice and we will have it smoothed as soon as possible to avoid injury to your tongue or mouth.

