

1. Why would a basic restoration (filling) fail if the dentist did a good job?

- Recurrent decay - most common, poor oral hygiene, poor diet
- Tooth grinding or clenching also known as bruxism
- Chewing foreign objects which are too hard - ice, some nuts
- Chewing on new restorations before they are set and ready causes cracks and weakens the restoration

2. Why would a dentist choose a crown over a basic restoration?

The choice of a crown versus a very large restoration is usually a question of function, durability and cost. A crown is usually recommended for consideration for a large restoration because it will last longer and provide better service. An "over extended" basic restoration, silver or tooth colored, is more likely to fail, exhibit recurrent decay, and lead to re-treatment. This is more expensive and complicated treatment often necessitating a root canal. A preventive treatment can be the crown and it is also often more esthetic in front teeth.

3. What causes periodontal disease?

- Genetic predisposition in the presence of inadequate oral hygiene increases plaque and disease
- Natural resistance variable from person-to-person
- General health some diseases example - diabetes, bone density problems can make someone more prone to periodontal problems

4. What causes an abscess?

Dental - tooth related:

- Extensive decay reaches pulp system of tooth and spreads infection out of roots into jaw bone
- Trauma with injury to teeth may be delayed reaction
- Cracked tooth may reach pulp
- Large restorations possibly close to nerve - being replaced often increases the likelihood of abscess

Periodontal - gum tissue:

- Advanced gum disease from neglect
- Food particles etc. lodged into gum tissues leading to infection and abscess
- Partially erupted teeth especially wisdom teeth

5. Why would a dentist try to convince the patient to try to save a tooth v. extraction?

Dentists are obligated to provide the optimum treatment their patients can accept. The mouth is a complex system of many components; teeth, gums, soft and hard tissues, and nerves. All work in harmony to provide optimum health and function and esthetics. Minor changes to any component can be tolerated. However, each can lead to other changes - domino effect which may lead to compounded negative consequences. Tooth loss leading to shifting and results in an increase in tooth decay, food impaction, gum disease etc.

6. Why would a root canal fail if the dentist did a good job?

Anatomical Issues:

- Calcified canals - not treated
- Extra canals or roots with auxiliary canals portals - cannot be sealed
- Severely curved roots
- Cracked roots also re-infection

Functional and Usage Issues:

- Recurrent decay into canals allows re-infection
- Improper restoration of tooth by patient after root canal treatment if dentist advised such (temporary filling closes the hole and patient does not obtain a permanent restoration).
- Fractured teeth due to trauma, bruxism, ice chewing, etc.
- Periodontal disease may allow re-infection of root canal system

7. Why would a crown fail if the dentist did a good job?

Primary Causes:

- Recurrent decay - new after the crown was placed
- Major porcelain fractures - laboratory problems
- Trauma - fractured teeth - lost teeth

Secondary Causes:

- Loss of adjacent teeth necessitating the use of a tooth for a bridge
- Shifting teeth due to tooth loss, periodontal disease, bruxism
- Fractured roots
- Endodontics - sometimes the crown cannot be replaced or repaired after root canal therapy
- Cosmetics - patient wants color changes or has gingival recession