



Cracked Tooth Syndrome

You may have a very common problem in one of your teeth.

Teeth may crack when subjected to the stress of chewing hard foods or ice, by biting on an unexpected hard object or grinding of teeth. Teeth with or without restorations may exhibit this problem, but teeth restored with silver alloy (amalgam) are most susceptible. Older persons have more cracked teeth than younger people.

Symptoms and Signs May Include the Following:

- Pain on chewing
- Pain on cold air application
- Spontaneous pain (usually leakage of sugar into tooth crack)
- No x-ray evidence of problem
- No dental decay present
- Easy verification of crack when tooth is prepared for restoration

Treatment of Cracked Teeth:

1. **Simple Crack:** The majority of cracked teeth (about 9 out of 10) can be treated by placement of a simple crown (cap) on the tooth. When the tooth is prepared for the crown and a temporary restoration is placed, the pain usually leaves immediately. If this is the case with your tooth, we will place the final crown without a problem on your next appointment. The condition should be resolved.
2. **Complex Crack:** Occasionally, (about 1 in 10) the tooth cracks in the pulp (nerve) of the tooth. If the pain persists after placement of the temporary crown, you may have a crack into the pulp of the affected tooth. Please call us. This tooth may require endodontics (root canal therapy) before the crown is placed. If this is the case, we will refer you to an endodontist for treatment prior to placing the final crown.

If you have any questions please call the MIT Dental Service at 617-253-1501