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## Material Used for Tooth Restorations

This information is provided to help you make decisions about the use of materials as tooth restorations in your mouth. Many types of materials are used in dentistry for the replacement and rehabilitation of oral structures. The following information in conjunction with your dentist will help you to make decisions about the type of tooth restorations you prefer to be placed in your mouth.

### **Fillings (Restorations of missing parts of single teeth):**

- **Silver Amalgam** has been used for about 160 years for the restoration of teeth. It has been a highly successful but non esthetic material. Average longevity about 15 years, silver colored, low initial cost. Best used in small to medium sized restorations of posterior teeth (premolars and molars).
- **Composite Resin** (one appointment placement) Average longevity 10-12 years, tooth colored, moderate cost. Best used in small to medium sized restorations for any teeth.
- **Gold Inlays and Onlays** (two appointment placement) Average longevity 20 years to life, gold colored, moderate to high initial cost. May be used in any size restoration in any location where metal display is not objectionable.
- **Indirect Composite Resin or Ceramic** (two appointment placement) Average longevity (expected) 10-15 years, tooth colored, moderate to high initial cost. Best used in medium sized restorations for posterior teeth (premolars and molars).

### **Crowns or Fixed Prosthesis (Bridges)**

- **Metal Alone** gold alloys have been used for many years in the fabrication of crowns and bridges. Average longevity is 20 years to life, gold or silver color, moderate to high initial cost. May be used in any area where metal display is not objectionable.
- **Porcelain Fused to Metal** Average longevity is 10 to 20 years, tooth colored, moderate to high initial cost. May be used in any area where extreme biting stress or grinding habits are not present
- **All Ceramic** These crowns are fabricated from ceramic alone. Average longevity is 10+ years, moderate to high initial cost. May be used in any area where extreme stress or grinding habits are not present. All ceramic restorations are primarily used as single crowns, and occasionally as bridges.

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