



NERVE TREATMENTS

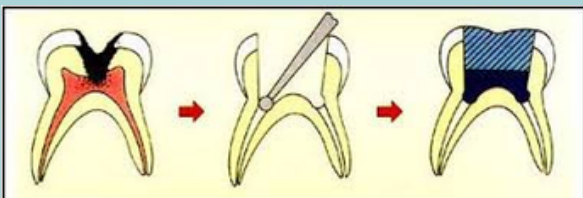
Indirect Pulp Caps (IPC) & Pulpotomies

Indirect Pulp Caps:

Think of an indirect pulp cap as a "shield and heal" for a deep cavity that is getting close to the tooth's nerve. Instead of exposing the nerve, we protect it by placing a material that decreases sensitivity and heals the area. This is a great option for when the cavity is close to the nerve but has not reached it yet.

Pulpotomies:

Pulpotomies allow us to save baby teeth with large cavities that have reached the nerve. During the procedure, the infected nerve tissue is carefully removed, replaced by a material that strengthens the core of the tooth and a stainless steel crown is placed on top. This approach helps maintain the tooth's function and health until the permanent adult tooth comes in. By preserving the baby tooth, a pulpotomy also prevents space loss and alignment problems that can occur when baby teeth are extracted too early.



This picture shows a large cavity going to the nerve and the pulpotomy that was done (in blue) to save the tooth



ARE THERE ANY OTHER OPTIONS?

Here at Once Upon a Smile, your child's health and well-being is our #1 priority. We understand that choosing what option is best for your child can be hard.

We openly encourage you to ask us any questions you have and we are happy to explain the options we have available.

If you are unsure, we encourage second opinions! We want you to feel absolutely confident about whatever decision you make regarding your child's oral health.

There are some pediatric dental offices that offer white crowns on baby molars (otherwise known as Zirconia Crowns). If you are interested in this treatment option, we are happy to provide you with a list of dental offices that offer this procedure.

CONTACT US:

(847) 882-2555

sboffice@ouaspeds.com



Once Upon A Smile
Pediatric Dentistry



DENTAL MATERIALS

How we protect your kid's teeth and treat cavities



DENTAL SEALANTS

A sealant is a resin material applied to the chewing surfaces of the back teeth. Sometimes the bristles of our toothbrush cannot properly clean the deep pits and grooves on the back molars. Sealants act as a barrier to prevent bacteria and food from entering those pit and fissures.

This barrier creates an effective way to protect your child's teeth from tooth decay! In fact, sealants have been shown to reduce cavities by **70%** compared to unsealed teeth!

HOW ARE SEALANTS PLACED?

Sealants are completed in 4 easy steps!

1. Clean the teeth
2. Apply tooth shampoo on the grooves of the teeth
3. Place the sealant on the teeth with a brush
4. Allow the sealant to harden



COMPOSITE & EQUIA FILLINGS

COMPOSITE

Composites are a tooth colored resin material used to fill cavities or repair broken/chipped teeth.

Composite fillings are a great option when cavities on baby teeth are small -moderate size.

ITEMS TO CONSIDER:

- Over time, composite fillings can fracture if there is plaque left on the teeth or if patients grind their teeth
- Composite resins require us numb the teeth with local anesthetic and clean the cavity out with our handpieces

EQUIA

Equia is a tooth colored material that releases fluoride and helps to remineralize teeth. It is a great option for children who are high risk for cavities or those who cannot tolerate drilling and/or numbing

ITEMS TO CONSIDER:

- Equia can wear down faster and are more likely to debond from the teeth than traditional composite fillings



STAINLESS STEEL CROWNS

Stainless steel crowns are silver-colored caps made from a blend of metals, including nickel. They are placed over damaged or decayed baby teeth to protect and preserve them until the adult (permanent) teeth come in.

These crowns are the most reliable option for treating moderate to large cavities, especially in cases where the tooth has had nerve treatment (pulpotomy) due to deep decay.

These crowns are highly durable, helping to maintain the baby tooth and, in turn, protect the developing adult tooth beneath. By saving the baby tooth from early loss, they also help prevent future problems with spacing or alignment that might require orthodontic treatment later on.

Unlike composite (white) fillings, stainless steel crowns completely cover the tooth, preventing any new cavities from forming on it. The crowned tooth will naturally fall out on its own when your child is around 10-12 years old, just like any other baby tooth.

ITEMS TO CONSIDER:

- The crowns are silver in color and are not tooth colored
- Some children experience soreness around the gums after placement that usually resolves in 1-2 days

