



PULP THERAPY

Pulp therapy is the treatment of infected nerves and blood vessel in teeth. Pulp therapy generally becomes necessary for two reasons: either as a result of extensive tooth decay (dental caries); or as the result of tooth injury.

Why Pulp Therapy is Important

Failure to provide the necessary pulp therapy could result in your child experiencing pain, infection, swelling, or loss of the root. With the proper treatment, the tooth can be preserved for chewing food and maintaining proper space for permanent teeth, as well as helping your child to preserve a healthy, happy smile.

Treatment of Tooth Requiring a Pulpotomy

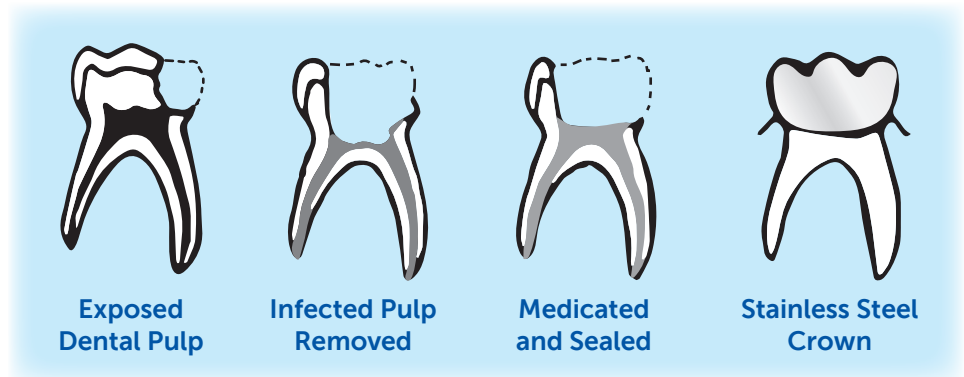
There are a number of ways your doctor may suggest to treat these various conditions. For example, in the case of a tooth with decay, the goal is to keep the primary tooth until it is ready naturally to come out (exfoliate) and be replaced by the permanent tooth. Typically, back primary teeth are maintained in the mouth until 10 or 12 years of age. Proper treatment will enable the primary tooth to hold the necessary arch space for permanent teeth and help to prevent the development of future bite problems. Proper treatment will also help your child to continue to chew food and speak as usual.

To prepare the tooth for pulp therapy, your doctor will numb the tooth or use other methods to prevent your child from experiencing discomfort during treatment.

Following the preparation of the tooth, pulp therapy may be as simple as the placement of a medicine within the cavity before filling or restoring the tooth, or it might require removal of some or all of the pulp tissue in the crown or roots of the tooth. Your doctor will discuss various treatment options and details with you, depending upon the extent of your child's individual circumstances.

Pulp Therapy Success

The success of pulp therapy depends on the duration and severity of the infection. As a general rule, the earlier an infected tooth is treated, the more likely the treatment will be a success. Your doctor will discuss these factors with you to help you to decide on the correct treatment for your child.



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