

DENTAL DICTIONARY**ANATOMY**

Anterior Front teeth.

Crown of Tooth The part of the tooth covered with enamel, the part that is normally visible above the gum line.

Dental caries Decay, cavities.

Dentin The hard bonelike connective tissue making up the root of the tooth and the crown under the shell of enamel. Dentin has feeling through a series of tubules that act like nerves.

Enamel The extremely hard outer shell of the tooth. Enamel, like hair and fingernails, has no feeling.

Posterior Back teeth.

Pulp The soft tissue in the center of the tooth that holds the nerves and blood supply.

Root The part of the tooth below the gum line that anchors the tooth into the jawbone.

PREVENTIVE

Prophylaxis (prophy) Tooth cleaning and polishing in the absence of gum disease.

Scaling The removal of hard debris (tarter or calculus) from the tooth surface.

Topical Fluoride Liquid or gel placed on teeth to help prevent caries.

Radiographs X-ray films that help the dentist to detect beginning caries and gum disease that is not easily visible to the eye.

CROWNS

Cast Post and Core An anchoring pin or post that is cemented into the root of the tooth (after a root canal) when there is not enough remaining tooth to support a crown.

Fixed Bridge One or more false teeth (pontics) attached to the adjacent tooth or teeth by a crown or crowns.

Full Crown A metal, plastic or porcelain restoration that covers the whole crown of the tooth. Sometimes called a cap.

3/4 Crown A crown, usually metal, that leaves part of the visible surface of the tooth intact.

Non-precious Metal Metal that contains no gold or platinum.

Pin Build-up Pins and support material placed into the tooth structure under crowns or fillings for strength.

Pontic The false tooth on a fixed bridge, usually metal, porcelain, or a combination of the two.

Porcelain Tooth colored ceramic material fired in a high temperature oven. Used to make crowns, bridges and veneers when esthetics is important.

PROSTHETICS

Full Denture Plastic or porcelain teeth on a plastic base replacing all of the upper and/or lower natural teeth.

Partial Denture Replacement of missing teeth on a plastic base or metal bar.

Stayplate Plastic plate with teeth and clasps (usually temporary).

Reline New plastic bonded into the denture to reestablish the fit since the underlying bone and gum tissue shrink over time.

RESTORATIVE

Composite/Plastic Resin White or tooth-colored filling material.

Amalgam Metal filling material, a mixture primarily of mercury and silver with small amounts of tin, zinc and copper. Usually called a silver filling.

Inlay Cast Metal, ceramic or lab cured composite filling cemented to the tooth but not completely covering the chewing surface.

Onlay Like an inlay, but covering the chewing surface.

Sedative Base Medication placed on top of pulp to help restore vitality of tooth.

ENDODONTICS

Apicoectomy Amputation of the tip of the root.

Pulpectomy/Pulpotomy Removal of all or part of the nerve of the tooth.

Pulp Cap Medication placed over the exposed area of a live pulp (nerve) to promote healing of the pulp.

Root Canal Filling Reshaping and filling the nerve space in the root of the tooth after the death of the nerve.

ORAL SURGERY

Extraction Removal of a tooth.

Surgical Extraction Extraction of a tooth that requires opening a gum tissue flap, removal of bone and placing sutures (stitches).

Impaction Unerupted tooth that is tipped or blocked so that it cannot come in normally.

Impaction (soft tissue) Impacted tooth just under gum line.

Impaction (partially bony) Impacted tooth partly covered by bone.

Impaction (completely bony) Impacted tooth completely covered by bone.

Frenectomy Removal of connective tissue between the front teeth to allow spaces to close, restore proper shape of gum tissue or free the tongue for normal function.

PERIODONTICS

Gingiva Gum tissue.

Gingivitis Beginning gum disease, inflammation of the gingiva.

Gingivectomy Removal of gum tissue to promote proper maintenance.

Osseous and Mucogingival Surgery Removal and reshaping of bone and gum tissue.

Periodontitis Advanced gum disease, inflammation of the ligament that attaches the tooth to the bone.

Root Planing Removal of calculus, reshaping and smoothing the surface of the root, the basic treatment for periodontitis.

Subgingival Curettage Removal of calculus and diseased tissue from the root and the cuff of soft tissue around the root.