

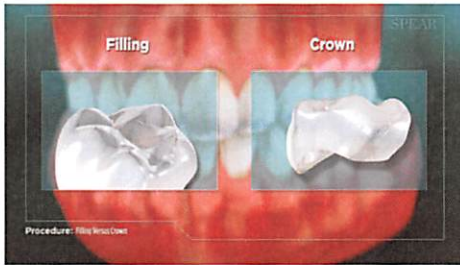
Filling Versus Crown (Impression)

Dr. Lucas Sandman

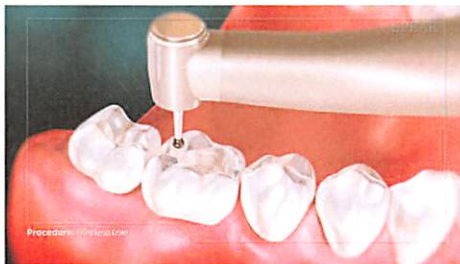
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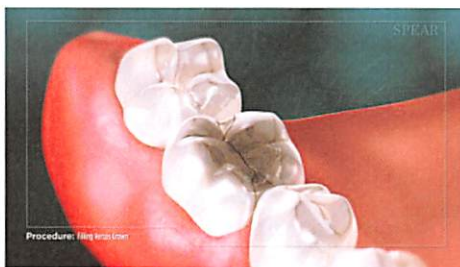
When a tooth's structure has been compromised by decay, your doctor may choose to use a filling or a crown to repair it.



When repairing a small area of decay, a filling is a great option. A filling can be completed in a single appointment and is less expensive than a crown.



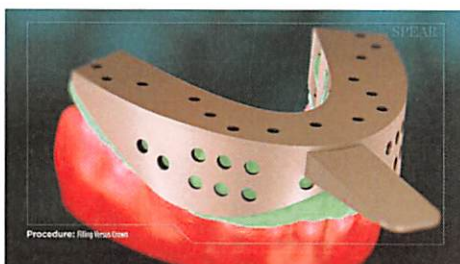
The cavity can be filled with a material called "composite," which closely mimics the tooth's natural appearance. Once completed, the filling should stop the decay and keep the tooth healthy for a number of years.



Drawbacks of a filling can be a shorter comparative lifespan, and potential long term issues like recurring decay and cracking.



Placing a crown is best when a tooth has been weakened by extensive decay, injury, or deterioration of a large filling. A crown procedure involves reducing the surface area of the whole tooth to remove the decay, and then covering it entirely with a restoration made of metal, ceramic, or a combination of the two.



Crowns are more durable and last longer than a filling, and protect teeth from fracturing over time. Ceramic crowns provide a more natural-looking appearance.



Placing a crown may require multiple appointments. While more expensive than a filling, the durability and longevity of a crown offsets this expense over time.



In the right circumstances, both a filling and a crown are excellent options for repairing decayed or damaged teeth. It is important that you consult with your doctor so that the right choice can be made based upon your unique needs.