

# ARROWHEAD LAKES DENTISTRY

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**THIS INFORMATION IS FOR GENERAL USE ONLY.  
YOUR INDIVIDUAL SITUATION MAY VARY.  
CONSULT YOUR DENTIST FOR SPECIFIC  
RECOMMENDATIONS.**

## CRACKED TOOTH SYNDROME

You may have a very commonly occurring problem in one of your teeth.

Teeth may crack when subjected to stress of chewing hard foods or ice, or by biting on an unexpected hard object. Teeth with or without restorations may exhibit this problem, but teeth restored with typical silver amalgam restorations are most susceptible.

SYMPTOMS AND SIGNS ARE SOME OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. Pain on chewing.
2. Pain on cold air application.
3. Unsolicited pain (usually leakage of sugar into tooth crack).
4. No xray evidence of problem.
5. No dental decay present.

TREATMENT OF CRACKED TEETH:

1. **SIMPLE CRACK:** The majority of cracked teeth (about 9 out of 10) can be treated by placement of a simple crown (cap) on the tooth. When the tooth is prepared for the crown, and a temporary restoration is placed the pain usually leaves immediately. IF THIS IS THE CASE WITH YOUR TOOTH; WE WILL PLACE THE FINAL CROWN WITHOUT A PROBLEM ON YOUR NEXT APPOINTMENT AND THE CONDITION SHOULD BE SOLVED.
2. **COMPLEX CRACK:** Occasionally (about 1 in 10) the tooth cracks into the pulp (nerve) of the tooth. IF PAIN PERSISTS AFTER PLACEMENT OF THE TEMPORARY CROWN, YOU MAY HAVE A CRACK INTO THE PULP OF THE AFFECTED TOOTH. PLEASE CALL US. THIS TOOTH MAY REQUIRE ENDODONTICS (ROOT CANAL THERAPY) BEFORE THE CROWN IS PLACED. This requires additional appointments before the crown is placed.

Please contact our office if you have any questions.