

Pulpotomy

What is a Pulpotomy?

A pulpotomy is when the inflamed pulp chamber, usually on a baby molar, is removed, the area is sterilized, and the chamber is sealed. It is sometimes called a baby tooth root canal. It is a very common procedure in children and has a reasonably good prognosis of success, in conjunction with a Stainless Steel Crown (SSC).

When a cavity gets really deep, close to the pulp of a tooth or even into the pulp, the pulpal tissue becomes irritated and inflamed. This is usually the "tooth ache" you feel. If the inflammation and infection continues without treatment, the tooth will likely eventually abscess. In baby molars, a pulpotomy is used in the process of trying to save and restore the tooth. First, the decay is removed, and then the pulp chamber (the top part, not the root canals) is removed. Techniques and medicines are used to stabilize the pulp stumps and to sterilize and seal the area. After a pulpotomy on a baby molar, ***it is necessary to place a stainless steel crown to restore the tooth.***

What to expect after a Pulpotomy

Pulpotomies have reasonably good prognosis. It may buy some time, but cannot save an already abscessed tooth. *It is often surprising how a seemingly small area of decay can be deep enough to reach the pulp. This is often due to the varied anatomy of baby teeth and the rapid progression of decay.* Although a very reliable procedure, rarely, a tooth with a pulpotomy will have complications and need to be extracted. This is usually due to the remaining pulp tissue in the root canals giving some kind of trouble.

Bottom line: a pulpotomy is a really good and reliable way to save a badly decayed baby tooth.

We have done our best to provide you with the finest quality oral restorations available today. However, only your continuing excellent oral hygiene and professional recalls can ensure optimum service and longevity.

Should you have any concerns about the pulpotomy, please do not hesitate to call our office at (815) 725-5991