

Pediatric Dental Treatments For Tooth Decay

Dental treatment for tooth decay can be avoided! It is recommended to visit the dentist regularly for dental check ups and cleanings in order to prevent and stay on top of dental conditions such as tooth decay, which can progressively lead to uncomfortable symptoms and serious dental and health problems. The faster a child receives care, the higher the chances of reversing the effects of tooth decay and stifling its advancement. Treatment for tooth decay, cavities, depends on the extent of the decay and a child's specific dental situation.

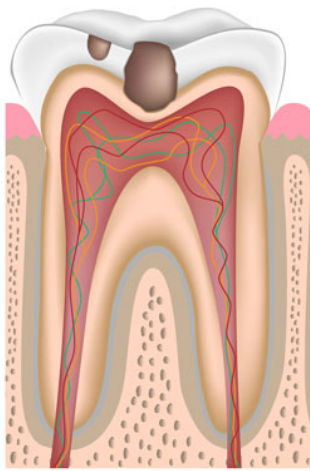
Dental Treatment for Tooth Decay Overview

Tooth decay in children, also known as Dental Caries or ECC (*Early Childhood Caries- in children below 6 years*), is a chronic childhood disease. Cavities are holes in the teeth occurring from, most likely, a combination of factors involving improper oral care and dental hygiene. Tooth decay is a progressive disease that is preventable but also treatable if too advanced for reversal through simple oral hygiene. Tooth decay can progress rapidly in primary teeth, especially. The holes (cavities) only deepen through the innermost layers of the teeth, if not treated properly, and sometimes even reach the nerves, which can be very painful. This can progress into an abscess and cause other health problems. If a child complains of dental pain, it is important to make an appointment with the Pediatric Dentist immediately.

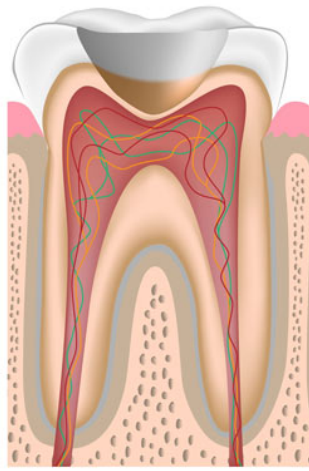
Dental Treatment Options For Tooth Decay

Treatment for cavities depends on the severity of the dental decay and the child's particular condition and circumstances. Utilizing a variety of possible treatment approaches, the decay is removed, and the tooth is restored to health and its natural healthy condition. The particular type of treatment also typically depends on whether the decay is affecting primary teeth or permanent teeth. Possible treatment methods include:

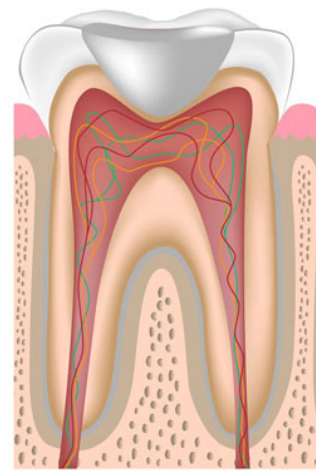
Dental Filling



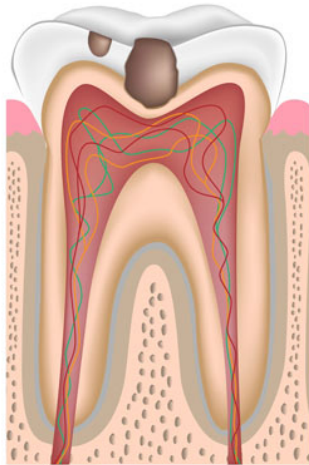
Tooth decay



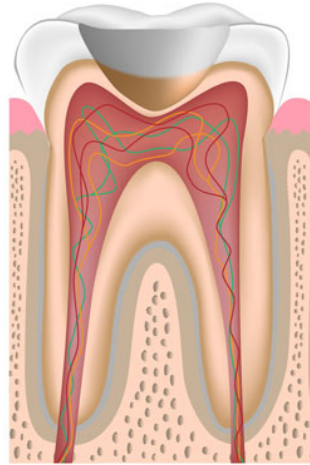
Decay removed



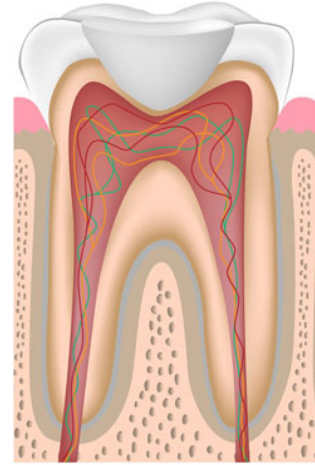
Silver filling



Tooth decay



Decay removed



White filling

Fluoride treatments—If the decay is discovered early, before it eats through the protective enamel outer surface of the tooth, sometimes a professional fluoride varnish treatment or even just brushing with a special fluoride toothpaste can stop and reverse the decay. This can restore the tooth's enamel where the cavity or cavities have started eroding. Professional treatments contain more fluoride than over the counter toothpastes or tap water. Each treatment may take several minutes and may be administered in the form of a varnish, gel, liquid, or foam that is applied/painted onto the teeth or in a tray that is placed over the teeth.

Filling—The most common way to treat decay is a tooth colored filling. This type of procedure is used for decay that is limited in

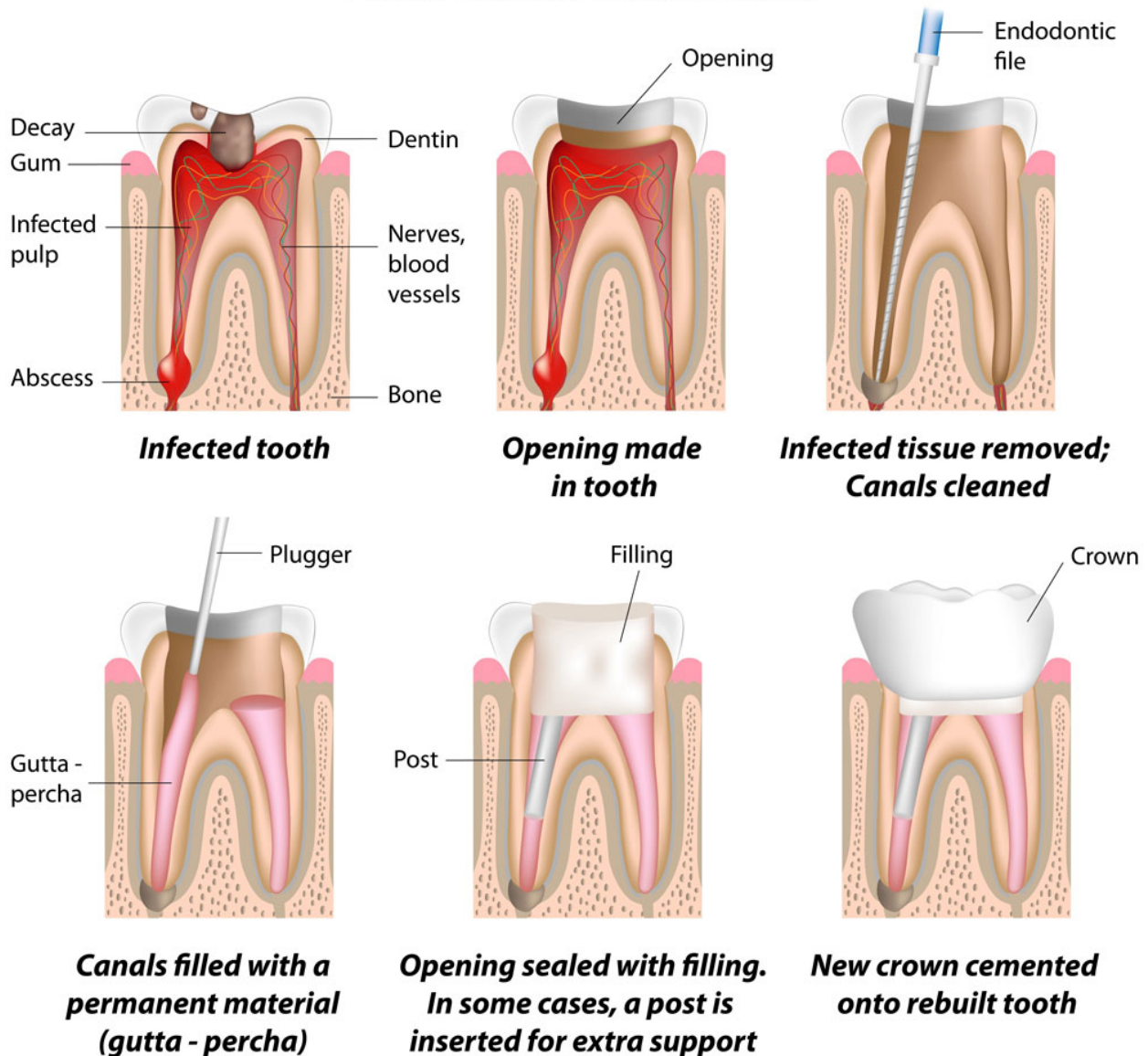
depth. Simply put, the decay is first removed, and then a tooth colored filling is placed to restore the tooth.

Pulp capping procedure—If the decay is more moderate to severe and is close to the pulp (nerve) without actually exposing the nerve, a pulp capping procedure is required before a filling is placed.

Pulpotomy procedure—For more severe decay with pulp (nerve) exposure a pulpotomy procedure is required. This involves the removal of infected pulp (Only the infected top crown part of the pulp, leaving behind the healthy lower root part of the pulp) followed by placement of medication. Anytime a pulpotomy is performed, a crown is required, either stainless steel or tooth colored.

Porcelain/tooth colored or primary stainless steel crowns—When the decay is more extensive and has eaten through to the nerve of a primary tooth, a crown is required. Depending on the situation, a porcelain/tooth colored or a stainless steel custom-shaped covering is made to replace the full natural crown of a primary tooth. First the Pediatric Dentist completely drills away the decayed part of the tooth to restore health, fills the tooth, and then covers the tooth with the crown to protect and cosmetically repair the tooth.

Root Canal Treatment



Root Canal—If dental decay reaches as deep as the very inner pulp (nerve exposure) of a permanent tooth or a permanent tooth becomes abscessed, specifically, a root canal is necessary before a metal or porcelain crown is placed. At this point, a tooth is so badly diseased or infected that decay has reached the nerve, making this the only treatment option apart from removing the entire tooth. First, the dentist removes the decayed inner pulp of the tooth, and then administers medication into the root canal to heal any infection. After the health of the inside of the tooth is reestablished, the dentist will fully restore the tooth by replacing the removed pulp with a filling.

Root Canal for a primary tooth is called as '*Pulpectomy*' differing from a permanent tooth Root Canal in regard to the technique of procedure.

Extraction—For primary teeth that become so seriously decayed that they abscess, removal is the only option. After the Pediatric Dentist extracts the diseased tooth (before its natural exfoliation age), the space that is left may cause other teeth to shift out of place. In order to prevent this from happening, it is recommended that a space maintainer be placed where a primary tooth was extracted.