



**Alex McMillan IV, DDS & Associates**

We have prescribed a crown (also referred to as a “cap”) to restore your tooth to healthy function, A crown is a laboratory-fabricated restoration constructed of gold, porcelain fused to a metal core, resin or an all ceramic/porcelain material.

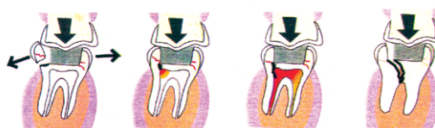
Crowns are recommended in many different situations. The most common reasons are when there is a large defective filling present or, structural failures such as a fracture in the tooth and there is not enough natural tooth structure remaining to support an inlay, only or composite restoration.

Amalgam-mercury fillings (otherwise referred to as silver fillings) have become outdated. Years ago this material was state of the art, however in recent years there have been major advances in materials used in dentistry.

Amalgam-mercury fillings expand and contract due to the drastic temperature changes in the mouth and extreme forces of daily functions. Amalgam-mercury fillings break teeth (illustration below) because they actually act like “wedges”, and create stresses within the tooth that can lead to premature fractures or breakage of the tooth. This is the primary reason why so many teeth that have large amalgam-mercury fillings eventually need crowns.



**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**

**Figure 1:** Teeth with fillings flex more. As show in the illustration, biting forces the tooth apart. Stress fractures develop over time.

**Figure 2:** As shown in the illustration, stress fractures become deeper and can break off part of the tooth, go into the nerve, or split the tooth in half.

We have prescribed the following treatment for you:

Tooth #: \_\_\_\_\_

Restoration: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Aesthetic, Implant & Sedation Dentistry**

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