



beauty form function

SMILE CLINIQ FILLINGS CONSENT FORM

It has been recommended that you have a filling placed in one or more of your teeth, I would like to give you a little more information so that you understand why. Like any medical or dental treatment, with this being active treatment, there are risks and benefits.

Why do I need a filling?

A filling may be needed for a number of reasons:

- Tooth decay (infection) that may even be around an existing filling, which often does not cause any pain until very advanced stages of infection
- Tooth fracture
- Tooth wear
- Cosmetic improvement

What is involved in having a filling?

- We will place some gel on your gum to help numb the area before we administer local anaesthetic
- A "rubber dam" (like in the photograph) is then usually applied to your teeth to keep the area dry, and isolated from the saliva in your mouth, as your saliva contains thousands of bacteria, and we don't want the tooth to be bathed in bacteria while we are placing your filling.
- We will then clean the decay out of your tooth, bleach the cavity to make sure it is clean, then place a filling and polish it.



What are the benefits of having a filling?

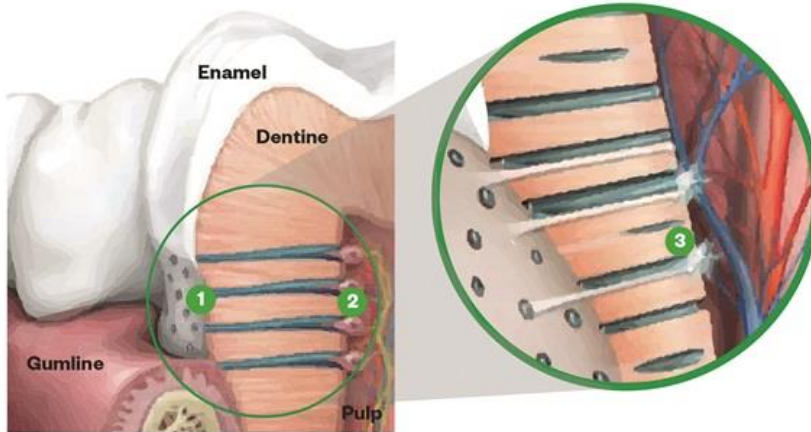
The benefits of having a filling placed include removal of the decay (infection) and preventing the bacteria from reaching the nerve of the tooth and potentially causing an abscess. Decay spreads rapidly in the tooth, so it is important that you have your filling done as soon as possible.

As well as removing the infection, fillings restore function to a tooth and reduce likelihood of fracture.



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What are the risks of having a filling placed?



A tooth is alive, so having a filling placed in the tooth is like micro-surgery (very similar to having surgery anywhere else in your body, like your arm or your leg). So, it is normal for your tooth to feel tender and sensitive after treatment. The picture above shows the layers of a tooth. The outer layer (**Enamel**) is dead, and is only 1-2mm thick. The main bulk of the tooth is **dentine** which

contains thousands of tiny tubes (micro-tubules) that lead directly to the nerve of the tooth. The dentine therefore is alive. So, any filling in the dentine has the potential to be sensitive AFTER treatment. You will be numb during treatment, and therefore won't feel anything, but afterwards, it is normal for the tooth to be sensitive to hot and cold, and be tender to bite on because of these tubes in the dentine leading to the nerve. Your usual pain relief, such as Paracetamol or Ibuprofen will help to ease the tenderness of the tooth, and it is normal for the tooth to feel sensitive for several weeks after treatment. In most cases, this sensitivity and tenderness settles, however if it doesn't, or if the sensitivity is difficult to tolerate, do call us for advice.

So, the most common risk is sensitivity and tenderness of the tooth after treatment. What are the other common risks?

- Tenderness in the area the anaesthetic was administered
- A stiff jaw from being open so wide
- Tenderness around the gum
- Need for further treatment if the sensitivity/tenderness does not settle

What are the risks of not having a filling?

If you do not have the filling placed, the decay will continue to spread to the point where the nerve of the tooth becomes infected. This can cause severe tooth ache as the infection starts to cause an abscess, at which point a root canal treatment and crown would be required. Abscess can spread rapidly and become life threatening situations. Fillings should be completed as soon as possible.



Please note that sensitivity and discomfort is normal following a filling although many of our clients have no discomfort at all. If the tooth does not completely settle within a few weeks, please let us know.

Please note that we may take photographs of your face, jaws and teeth before, during and after treatment that may be used for dental records, dental education, demonstrations, and professional publications. We may also use the photographs as marketing material for our website, patient education and printed materials (leaflets).

Please note that if your photographs are used for any of the above, your name and other identifying information will be kept confidential.

If you **DO NOT** wish your photographs to be used please tick the box here

