

STRUCTURALLY COMPROMISED TOOTH

A structurally compromised tooth is a term used to describe a tooth that has been weakened by the loss of a significant amount of tooth structure.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What causes a tooth to be structurally compromised?

- A large cavity or a large existing filling. (Figure 1 and 3)
- A broken tooth involving a large portion of the tooth.
- Teeth with root canal treatment, where the removal of tooth structure required to complete the root canal treatment, significantly weakens the tooth.

2. What is the risk of having a structurally compromised tooth?

- The loss of a significant amount of tooth structure weakens the tooth, making it easier to break. (Figure 4)
- It can lead to cracks forming in the teeth, which may increase the risk of root canal treatment or possible tooth loss. (Figure 2)

3. What is the treatment for a structurally compromised tooth?

- A large filling will repair a damaged tooth and seal it against cavities, but will not protect the tooth from breaking.
- Your dentist may recommend a crown, which will not only seal it against cavities, but also protect the tooth from breaking by covering the existing tooth.

4. What will happen if I choose to do nothing about my structurally compromised tooth?

- There is a greater risk that the tooth will fracture, possibly requiring removal of the tooth.
- There is an increased risk for root canal treatment.



Figure 1. Large cavity.



Figure 2. Crack forming in the tooth.



Figure 3. Large filling.



Figure 4. Weakened tooth.

Dr. _____ has explained to me that the following teeth:
_____ are structurally compromised.
I have read and understand the risks presented in this consent form. I have had any additional questions answered by my dentist.

Patient signature _____ Date _____

Patient print _____

Witness signature _____ Date _____

Witness print _____

Dentist signature _____ Date _____