SURGICAL EXPOSURE

Surgical exposure of a tooth. In most cases, this is a result of the tooth being impacted or ectopic (i.e. stuck in the gums).

During the procedure, we have cut the gum to expose the tooth. A hard filling material has then been placed on the tooth to prevent the gums from healing over the exposed tooth and encourage the tooth to erupt into the correct position. In some cases, further treatment is required to help the tooth into position, this is usually in the form of interceptive orthodontics (normally determined 3-12 months post op).

The packing material does look tooth like and hard, but can dislodge. It is preferable for the packing to remain attached on the tooth as the tooth continues to erupt into the correct position. As the tooth continues to erupt into the arch, your child should return for a review assessment. We will eventually remove parts of the packing material as we deem appropriate.

The long-term aim is for the tooth to take its' position in your child's smile with no packing material left on the tooth.

Before Surgery



Post Surgery



Post Orthodontics



AFTER CARE FOR SURGICAL EXPOSURE

- Following the procedure, your child's gums will be painful. They may experience, pain, swelling or even prolonged numbness depending on the extent of treatment. Panadol or Nurofen is recommended for pain. Continue to take any prescribed medication until complete.
- Salt water rinses after each meal (1/2 tsp salt in small cup of lukewarm water) for first 2 weeks
- Do not brush the exposed tooth on the day of the procedure. Resume gentle brushing the next day in the area. Please brush the rest of the teeth normally.
- Normal brushing should resume as soon as possible, generally about 2 weeks post op.
- If the packing material falls off, please contact us immediately to arrange an appointment to have it replaced. This is likely completed in the dental chair without general anaesthesia
- Review appointments are generally at 3-6 months apart, however, should your child experience any discomfort as a result of the packing material, please contact us to have it reviewed and potentially polished or adjusted.

Should you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us on 07 3831 5677 or email buzz@kidsdental.com.au