

At Dentistry for Special People, we feel it is important for our patients and their families to be fully informed about the materials we use for your oral care. We have chosen these particular materials after carefully considering the relative risks, benefits and alternatives that are available and feel that these materials allow us to provide you the best care possible. *Please let us know in advance if you have a known allergy to any of these products.*

- ◆ **Prophy Paste:** Used in cleaning and polishing your teeth, it is similar to “toothpaste”. A Dye and flavor-free variety is also available for those with known allergy or taste hypersensitivity.
- ◆ **Fluoride:** we use two varieties of topical Fluoride, a brush-on kind and the kind used in foam trays. The brush on kind is a varnish that dries instantly so children can eat and drink immediately. It has a slightly bitter taste, but works great for young children and those with disabilities. The foam type has a better taste and is available in a variety of flavors, but eating and drinking must be delayed 45 minutes. Dispensed in the appropriate dose, both products are safe for oral use by a trained professional.
- ◆ **Resin Fillings:** We use “white, bonding” types of fillings in our practice, some of which release Fluoride and also help to prevent tooth sensitivity and recurrent decay. With appropriate bonding agents, these fillings have comparable strength to traditional “Silver Amalgam” fillings, are more esthetic and do not contain heavy metals or mercury like the silver fillings. In many cases, a smaller cavity preparation is possible due to the bonding process. Rarely, allergies to certain components of resin products (e.g. Methyl Methacrylate) may necessitate the use of other alternatives, such as Stainless Steel Crowns. Due to the high safety margin and the increased benefits of resin fillings cited above, WE NO LONGER USE “SILVER AMALGAM” fillings in our practice.
- ◆ **Sealants:** Made of material similar to the resin fillings, sealants are a protective coating that may be applied to certain teeth to help prevent cavities.
- ◆ **Stainless Steel Crowns:** As their name implies, SSC are caps that are made of stainless steel, and are used on teeth that require extensive protection. Examples include teeth that have large areas of decay and cavities in locations that are not conducive to performing quality fillings. Teeth that may be prone to breaking such as those requiring pulpotomies (mini-root canals), patients with high caries rates who may be prone to recurrent decay, or those in whom definitive treatment may need to be performed all at once, such as patients under general anesthesia, may also require SSC. All Stainless Steel products contain Nickel, which, although rare, can cause an allergic reaction.
- ◆ **Pulpectomy:** Conventional root canal usually performed in permanent teeth in our practice. An inert substance is used with no known risks.
- ◆ **Indirect Pulp Cap:** This is the name given to Fluoride containing “medicine” that is applied to the teeth in areas where the decay is extremely deep. It may help prevent tooth sensitivity, recurrent decay and lessen the chances of needing a root canal in the future. It has a success rate of up to 90%.

- ◆ **Pulpotomy:** Also called a “mini-root canal” or a “Dental Nerve Treatment”, a pulpotomy is performed on a tooth where the decay has reached inside the nerve of the tooth. Medicaments are applied directly to the affected nerve to prevent further deterioration and infection. Although many different types of medicaments have been *experimented* with, in dentistry, the type used in our practice (Formocresol with Zinc-oxide-eugenol) has been shown to have the highest success rate (90-95%), and is the accepted standard of care. Extreme care is taken to avoid direct contact of Formocresol with non-tooth structures as it can cause harm to tissues.
- ◆ **Orthodontics:** This includes a wide range of materials that may contain Nickel, Acrylic or Fluoride containing bonding cements. Again, rare allergies to these products may occur.
- ◆ **Space Maintainers:** A type of **orthodontic** appliance that is used when baby teeth are extracted prematurely, to allow the eruption of the permanent teeth in their proper position.
- ◆ **X-rays:** The least amount of radiation possible is used to aid us in diagnosing problems in the mouth. All our x-ray products are inspected and certified for radiation safety by the State of New Jersey.
- ◆ **Other:** In addition to the above materials, we also use local anesthetics (“Novocaine” like numbing medicine—rare allergic reactions possible) and Nitrous-Oxide analgesia (“Laughing Gas”—side effects when used appropriately by trained professionals are usually limited to nausea in healthy patients), to help make your child’s experience as comfortable as possible. In rare cases, a minor tranquilizer may be prescribed to provide relief from anxiety. Specific directions for this technique will be provided by the Doctor. For some patients too young to understand or who may have disabilities that prevent office treatment for behavioral or medical reasons, we provide hospital dental care. (A separate form is provided to explain this procedure).

We hope this helps you make an informed choice when presented with your child’s treatment plan. Please remember that it is your responsibility to know and understand how your insurance company will cover (pay) the procedures recommended for your child. We would be happy to discuss any of these treatments and the materials that are used in further detail with you.

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I have read and understood the information about the proposed materials needed to treat my child, including their risks as well as other alternatives, and I have had the opportunity to discuss the information with the treating doctor.

----- Parent / Legal Guardian-----date