

022 • 111 • 114 • 121 • 161 Radiographs and Preventative Treatment

OPG X-rays (full mouth scan) and its purposes:

- To screen the overall dentition.
- To check for any missing/extra teeth.
- Monitoring growth and development.



Intraoral X-rays and its purposes:

- To check the depth of the decayed teeth (holes), any nerve involvement, any pathology.
- To detect holes that is visually missed especially in between teeth.
- In dental trauma cases - x-rays are used to check for root damage, infection etc.



Please note:

- If x-rays were not taken at the time of the consultation for any reason, they will be taken on the day of treatment if under general anaesthetic.
- The dentist will take the opportunity to treat all teeth with decay
- With the aid of x-rays, treatment may require more time (if under general anaesthetic) or more visits (if treatment is performed in the clinic) to complete the treatment
- Inevitably, the total cost for treatment will be increased as more treatment will be carried out and payment of any additional cost is due on the treatment day (in the clinic) or the day after the treatment (for general anaesthetic cases only).



Prophylaxis and Topical Fluoride treatment

- Clean teeth professionally to remove plaque, stains and build up.
- Fluoride can increase the resistance of teeth to dental decay.

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Fissure sealants (protective coverings) for teeth

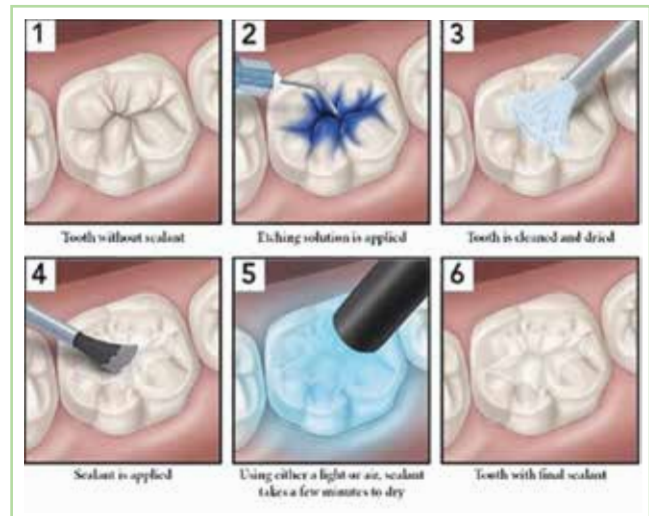
Sealants cover the pits and grooves on the eating surfaces of teeth to prevent food debris from collecting at the base of the grooves and make teeth less prone to dental decay.

What you need to know about fissure sealants

- Sealed teeth can still get decay because not all surfaces can be sealed
- All sealants wear and tear overtime
- Lifespan of sealants can be less than 12 to 18 months.
- When sealants are partially or completely dislodged, the risk of decay is increased again
- In children where the molars have not fully come through (clear of the gum), the sealants can come off quite easily, therefore would need to be reapplied.



The dentist always cleans the teeth before sealants are placed, after cleaning, it might enable the dentist to see holes (decay) that have actually formed underneath the grooves on the teeth yet to be sealed. In this scenario, fillings will be performed on those teeth instead of sealants.



Above is a diagram of the fissure sealant procedure. Fissure sealants are not considered invasive and take a few minutes per tooth.

Scale and Clean

A professional scale and clean, is designed to remove plaque and calculus that is unable to be removed with normal everyday brushing at home. During a scale and clean, specialised hand instruments and/or ultrasonic equipment will be used. When using hand instruments, the patient will experience a gentle scraping sensation on the tooth surface or around the gumline. During an ultrasonic clean, there will be water and noise; the water is removed from the mouth using a suction. The instruments selected will depend on how much build up there is to clean off, your clinician will decide on this on the day of your appointment.

