

Stuart Dental Spa Explains How Tooth Decay Can Form Under Dental Crowns Before Benefits Reset

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STUART, FL - November 09, 2026 -
Stuart Dental Spa is explaining how decay can form at the edge of a dental crown as many dental plans reset for the new year. The topic matters most to patients with crowns after root canals or other repairs, because the tooth under a crown is still natural. The release draws on a 2025 clinical review and federal data.

Many patients wonder whether a tooth can decay under a dental crown, and the answer is yes. A tooth under a crown can still get a cavity, according to MedlinePlus, the National Library of Medicine?s health information service. It advises caring for a crown like a natural tooth, with brushing twice daily and flossing once daily.

A dental crown is a cap that covers a damaged tooth, but it does not make the tooth under it immune to decay. Crowns still hold up well for most patients. A 2015 review by Irena Sailer and colleagues in Dental Materials put five-year survival at 94.7% for metal-ceramic single crowns on natural teeth.

Even so, new decay is a common reason dental work gets replaced, according to a 2025 review by Robert

Caplin in Dental Update. The review calls this returning decay recurrent decay. Recurrent decay can start at the margin, where the crown meets the tooth, which is the edge of the crown nearest the gum line.

The review also explains why decay at a crown?s edge can be hard to spot. Crowns are radiopaque, meaning X-rays pass through them poorly, so images may not show how far the decay has spread. In some cases, a final decision about the tooth cannot be made until the crown is removed.

X-ray timing depends partly on cavity risk. Guidelines from the American Dental Association and Food and Drug Administration list a history of recurrent decay as a risk factor. For adults with decay or higher risk, they suggest bitewing X-rays of the back teeth every six to 18 months, and every 24 to 36 months for others, based on clinical judgment.

About one in three Martin County residents is 65 or older, according to the latest Census Bureau QuickFacts figure of 33.6%. The national share is 18.9%. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports in its 2024 oral health surveillance report that adults 65 and older with natural teeth average 9.3 filled teeth.

Among adults 20 to 64 with a history of tooth decay, the average number of filled teeth rises from 4.8 at ages 20 to 34 to 7.5 at ages 50 to 64. The counts do not separate crowns from other dental work.

MedlinePlus says most crowns should last at least five years and can last 15 to 20 years. Guidance from Stuart Dental Spa says how long a crown lasts depends on the material used and on oral hygiene habits. It also names regular dental checkups as another factor.

Many dental benefit plans run on a calendar year, so yearly coverage maximums reset in January. Unused benefits often do not roll over, which leads some patients to schedule dental visits before the year ends. Plan terms vary, and some plans renew on other dates, so patients can confirm the details of their own coverage with their insurer.

Stuart Dental Spa is based in the Martin County seat of Stuart, Florida, and provides family and cosmetic dentistry to patients in the surrounding area. Dr. Matheny, the owner, has more than 25 years of experience as a dentist. He also helps train other dentists.

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Stuart Dental Spa

Stuart Dental Spa provides general dental services, including crowns, bridges, custom cosmetic (full and partial) dentures, dental implants, fillings, extractions, and cleanings.

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