

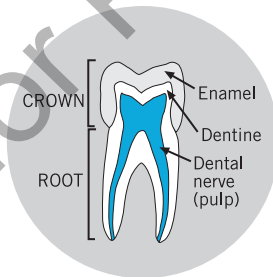
Pulpotomies

a guide for parents and clients

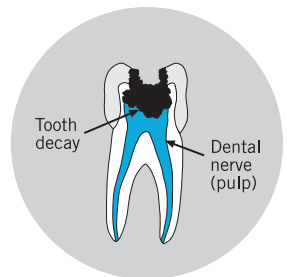
What is a pulpotomy?

- > Sometimes tooth decay can come close to or enter the nerve chamber inside the tooth. If this occurs, symptoms may include pain and/or increased sensitivity to hot and cold.
- > A pulpotomy involves removing the part of the dental nerve (or pulp) in the crown of the tooth.
- > A dressing is placed into the tooth on the remaining dental nerve (or pulp). The tooth is then filled ideally with a stainless steel crown (cap).
- > Local anaesthetic is used to prevent pain throughout the treatment.

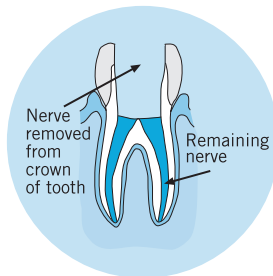
A Healthy Tooth



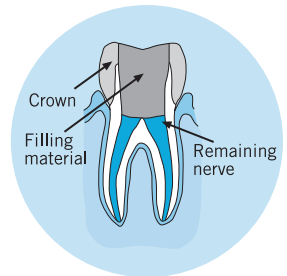
A Decayed Tooth



Pulpotomy Step 1



Pulpotomy Step 2



Important information

- > Pulpotomies are most commonly carried out on deciduous or baby teeth as a way of retaining the tooth.
- > The success rate of pulpotomies is high. If the treatment is unsuccessful the tooth will need to be extracted.
- > Following a pulpotomy, your child may experience some discomfort in the area of the tooth. This may last one to two days and can be best managed by taking recommended pain relief.
- > If the pain or discomfort continues, or if you have any other concerns, please contact your dental clinic.

Some medical conditions, for example a heart defect, may mean a pulpotomy cannot be performed. Please advise your dentist or dental therapist of any medical problems before treatment commences.

To help prevent tooth decay:

- > use a small, soft toothbrush and fluoride toothpaste to clean your teeth and gums
- > brush each morning and before bed at night
- > after brushing, spit the toothpaste out but don't rinse
- > choose healthy snacks like fruit and cheese
- > avoid frequent snacks, soft drinks and juices
- > drink tap water
- > chew sugar-free gum between meals to stimulate saliva.

If you have any questions about this information please discuss these with our dental staff.

For more information contact

SA Dental Service
GPO Box 864
Adelaide SA 5001
Telephone: 1300 008 222
www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/sadental

Interpreters: If you need an interpreter, call the clinic before your appointment, so that staff can arrange for one to be present when you attend.

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, contact the National Relay Service. For more information call 1800 555 660 or visit: www.relayservice.gov.au

