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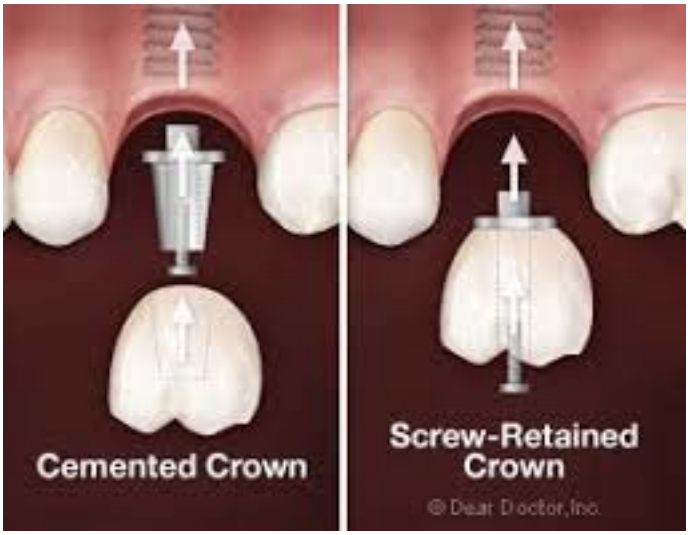
IMPLANT RETAINED CROWNS

Implant crowns or Bridges are cement retained or screw retained. The choice of a screw retained versus a cement retained crown is a complex and a comprehensive decision involving many points of consideration. They both have advantages and disadvantages amongst them retrievability for maintenance.



When a cement retained crown is used, there a component called abutment (akin to a core in a natural tooth) which is screw retained on which the crown is cemented. It is possible that we may need access to this screw for maintenance/tightening in future as any screw can get loose during chewing just as screws loosen in any machinery. In order to facilitate access, it is advisable to use a weak cement (such as *Tempbond*) to secure the crown. This is the cement we recommend in the first instance. If that proves to be insufficient, we then progress to stronger versions (like Zinc Oxide/Eugenol or Zinc Phosphate). We do not normally recommend very strong cements like Panavia or Glass Ionomer or Resin Modified Glass Ionomers.

What to do if the crown comes off?

The tissues surrounding implants tend to close over the implant when the restoration comes out. Hence it is better to get the crown returned to the implant ASAP. You may even simply hold the crown temporarily in place with a little bit of chewing gum or denture adhesive (please do not try to eat with that if not secure) and see a dentist ASAP.

However, do not panic if the tissues do close up as we can push away or remove the excess tissue. Local anaesthetic will be necessary. There may be an extra visit as the tissues do exert a lot of force to unseat the crown.

If you go to a dentist who is unfamiliar with the implant restorations, ask them to use the weakest cement (like T*empbond*) to temporarily hold the crown. We can then review that when you are next here.