



Christopher A. Swisher, DDS
Pediatric Dentistry

Pulpotomy (Nerve Treatment) Information

We want all of our patients and their parents who have a tooth in which a pulpotomy (nerve treatment) has been performed, to have the right information on how to care for and what the benefits are of a pulpotomy.

When decay enters the nerve of a primary (baby) tooth, a pulpotomy procedure becomes necessary to save the tooth. A pulpotomy is the removal of the nerve tissue and blood vessels inside the crown portion of a primary tooth. Once the decay and tissue have been removed, a medicated filling is placed in the space previously occupied by the nerve tissue and blood vessels.

While serving in a capacity similar to a root canal, a pulpotomy is not a root canal. The human body can dissolve all materials used in a pulpotomy. Primary teeth with pulpotomies will be lost in the same way that other baby teeth are lost when the permanent tooth replacing them dissolves the root enough for them to be lost. There are no special concerns if the baby tooth with a pulpotomy is lost due to the eruption of a permanent tooth.

Pulpotomies have been shown to have an 85% to 90% clinical success rate in primary teeth. It must be noted however, that some pulpotomies will fail unpredictably and the primary tooth may need to be removed in the future.

In order to give your child's tooth with the pulpotomy the longest possible life span, please have your child avoid the following foods: ice or ice cubes, hard candies, taffy, caramels, and jaw breakers.

If you have any questions or concerns about pulpotomies, please do not hesitate to ask our team.