

Q&A

With Dr. Robert Lantzy



Nothing may be more upsetting than chipping your front tooth. Depending on the severity of the incident, the whole experience could be very traumatic.

Q: What can be done with the chipped tooth?

A: The severed tooth chip is often salvageable.

The first course of action is to keep your mouth as clean as possible and place the chipped piece into a small container of milk. Get to the dentist promptly. If it is a clean break, the dentist can many times reunite and bond the chip to the natural tooth again. Many times a tooth will survive this incident with no long-term consequences, looking as natural as possible.

When the severed chip is lost or in many pieces, we can restore the tooth with a fully aesthetic, tooth colored bonding material. In this case, the artistry of the dentist will mimic what nature originally provided.

Depending on the severity of the trauma, the tooth may or may not darken over time...a result of bleeding within the tooth and/or the nerve dying. If the fracture was severe enough, the nerve in the tooth may have been exposed. If so, immediate therapy (root canal) will take place to save the tooth from further infection and pain. The tooth can then be restored to a natural appearance. In some cases, the damaged tooth can only be restored by a veneer or crown.

Let's talk a moment about prevention. In many cases chipped teeth are avoidable, especially when they relate to a sporting incident. Today, mouthguards are available over the counter or in the dental office. Mouthguards made in the dental office are customized to your mouth. The mouthguard material comes in clear as well as colors and many ask for their school colors. Making it fun and more comfortable to protect your teeth during sports, mouthguards can save your smile!

Dr. Robert Lantzy is a comprehensive family dentist in Newtown, Bucks County. He and his caring staff of professionals provide a range of services in a brand new, state-of-the-art facility where the focus is on individualized attention and lasting patient-doctor relationships. You may reach the office at (215) 860-5901.