

## Pulpotomy

Inside every tooth is a pulp chamber with nerve tissues and blood vessels. When decay spreads deep enough to affect the pulp of a tooth, the infection can then cause a number of problems, including pain and increased sensitivity to hot and cold.

A pulpotomy can be performed to remove the infection and save the tooth.

During a pulpotomy the infected part of the pulp is removed and a dressing is placed inside the tooth to prevent sensitivity and promote healing.

- A radiograph is required to determine the extent of the infection
- Local anaesthetic is administered
- Tooth is isolated with rubber dam (rain coat)
- Tooth decay is removed as well as the infected pulp
- Dressing placed into the tooth, onto the healthy pulp
- Crown placed to restore tooth

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 KidsSmile.

