



What Is a Pulpotomy?

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For your dental health.

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Decay enters the pulp

A pulpotomy is the surgical removal of irritated, inflamed nerve tissue (also called pulp) from within the crown portion of a primary (baby) tooth. The healthy root canals are left intact.

When decay in your child's tooth penetrates the enamel, and then the next layer – the dentin – it quickly approaches the innermost part of the tooth, the pulp. At this point, when the decay is close to or has barely penetrated the pulp, the nerve is still alive, but it is compromised. If left untreated, the decay will penetrate and spread throughout the nerve tissue in the pulp, which will lead to discomfort.

A pulpotomy halts this deterioration. It typically involves these steps:

- First, because we want the treatment procedure to be comfortable for your child, we thoroughly numb the affected area.
- Next, we place a rubber dam to isolate the tooth from the rest of the mouth and keep it dry. A rubber dam also protects like a safety net, preventing debris from falling to the back of your child's throat.
- To get at the irritated tissue, we make an opening through the top of the tooth down into the pulp chamber, and thoroughly clean out the nerve tissue.
- We then place a medicated dressing inside the tooth to promote healing.
- Finally, we place a stainless steel crown on the tooth, to seal and protect it.



Medication is placed



Stainless steel crown

Discomfort after the procedure is unlikely. However, if your child does experience some pain, a children's pain reliever should be given, following label directions.

A pulpotomy is a relatively quick and painless procedure that's extremely effective in eliminating infection in the nerve and saving your child's tooth.