Post & Crown Restorations

This tooth has significant problems

Here are the problems:

- Decay is below the gum line.
- Exposure of nerve is present.
- There is lack of root surface to anchor crown.

A root canal is done and a post is placed

Here are the problems:

- Surgery will be necessary to lower bone into correct position away from the crown.
- Post is thin and lacks retention in tooth.
- The root is weakened by root canal treatment.

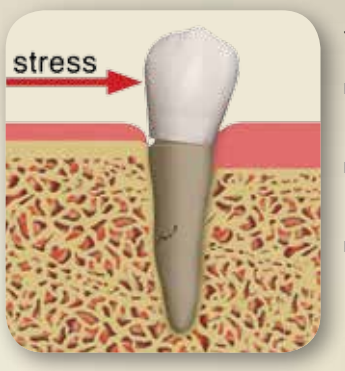
A crown is now placed over the post

Here are the problems:

- Crown/tooth connection is below the gums making the crown hard to clean.
- The short post gives minimal holding ability of crown to the post.
- Root fracture is a possibility.

The Long-Term Problems

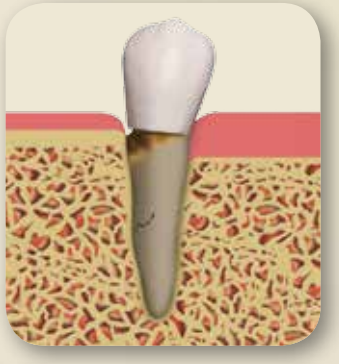
Stress is now applied to the tooth



This now happens:

- The crown separates from the tooth surface.
- Fractures lines could develop in the root.
- The post begins to have movement.

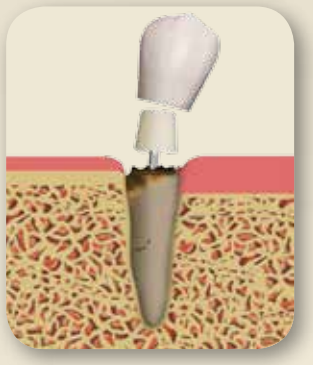
Fluids get underneath the crown's connection to the tooth



This now happens:

- Decay begins at the margins of the tooth/ crown junction.
- Decay progresses under the crown.

The post dislodges – the restoration fails



This now happens:

- Decay gets into the post space. This allows more movement of the post.
- With continued movement, the post dislodges.
- The restoration fails. Extraction is now clearly indicated.

The Dental Implant Alternative

The alternative is the placement of a dental implant

The benefits are:

- The implant is made of titanium, one of the strongest metals known.
- The implant firmly locks into the bone.

The tooth/implant connection is strong

The benefits are:

- Instead of a thin post holding the crown, a very strong titanium abutment holds the crown. It will not break.
- The abutment itself is held in place by a screw. It will not allow the abutment to dislodge.

There is no possibility of decay

The benefits are:

- Since the implant is made of titanium, there is no possibility of decay on the implant, nor will decay get under the crown.
- Restoration lasts the patient for many years.