

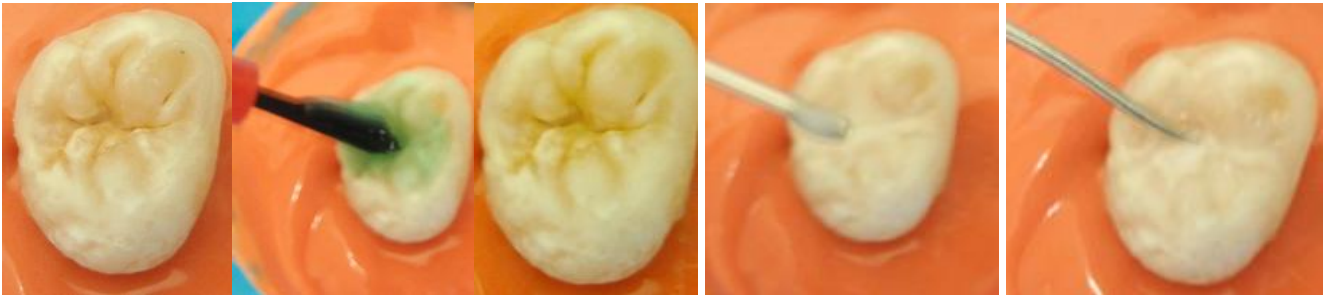
## Fissure Sealants and Sealant Restorations



The most common area for dental decay is the fissures in the crown of the tooth, because they provide a place for the plaque bacteria to grow.

The tooth brush if used is not able to enter and clean the very small fissures or cracks in the tooth surface.

By sealing all the fissures with a hard resin we can stop plaque bacteria growing and causing tooth decay.



Sealants should only be used where there is no sign of decay under the surface

Etch is applied over the fissures for 20 seconds, brushing in to all the fissures

The tooth is washed really well with water for 20 seconds, then dried until the surface is no longer shiny.

A small amount of fissure sealant is placed along the fissures with no air bubbles.

A probe is used to check that the surface of the tooth is smooth.

## Composite –sealant restoration

If there is obvious decay either visible by a change in colour or by feeling with a probe then a small round high speed bur is used to remove enough enamel to see the dental decay.

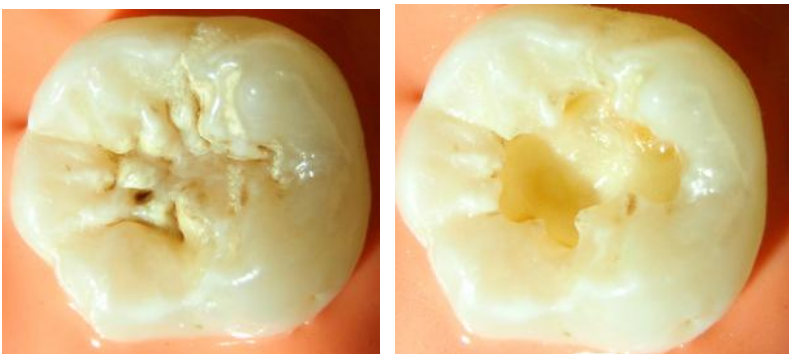
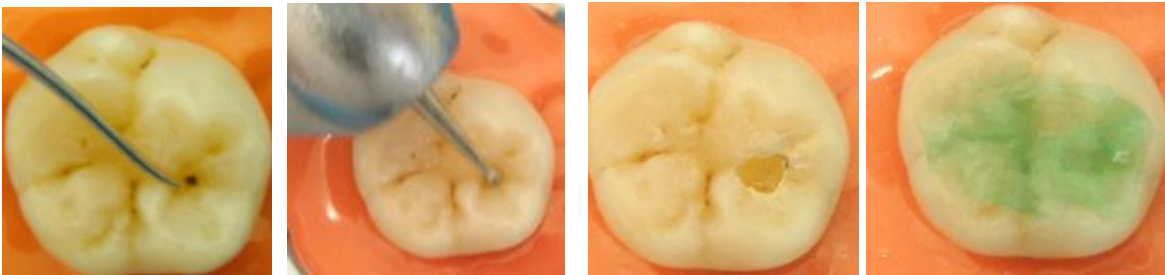
The soft dentine is removed with a round slow speed steel bur.

When clean the tooth is etched for 20 seconds washed and dried.

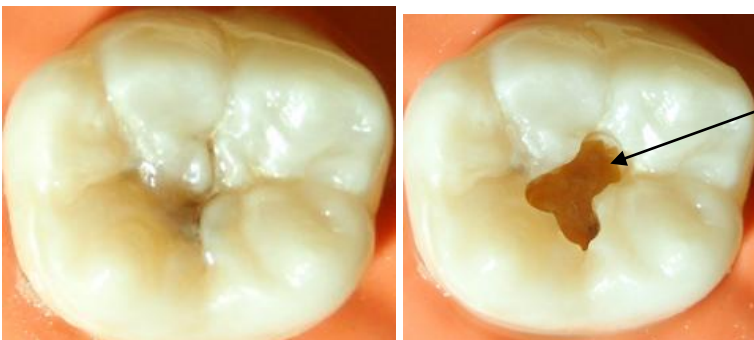
A little dentine bond is placed in the bottom of the cavity.

Flowable composite is placed in the cavity – less than 2mm at a time and then cured with a curing light

When the cavity has been filled and cured with composite fissure sealant is applied over all the fissures of the tooth.



If after all the decay has been removed the cavity is quite deep composite filling material will have to be placed in the cavity in small amounts.



It is important to remove all soft dentine unless there is a risk of opening the pulp