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INLAYS AND ONLAYS:

If a tooth has been broken down by tooth decay, fracture or wear it can be restored by an inlay. These restorations (fillings) are indirectly made either in a dental laboratory or by a milling machine in the dental rooms. They replace the missing structure of the tooth. They are cemented or bonded to the tooth to recreate its shape, function and colour. They can be made from gold, other alloys, ceramic or composite. We will guide you in deciding what type of material to use. Each material has its pros and cons.

As a general guideline:

- Gold lasts the longest and should be used in non-visible molar regions.
- Ceramics are very esthetic but can crack and are not repairable. Restored tooth has pleasing Natural appearance.
- Composites are very esthetic and can be repaired. Less prone to fracture than ceramics. Tooth Has a pleasing natural appearance.

An onlay is an inlay that extends to replace the cusps and covers the whole biting surface.

Inlays and onlays are indirect tooth restorations as they require an impression or scan of the prepared tooth. From the impression a model is cast that represents an accurate replica of the patient's teeth. A dental technician recreates the missing part.

From the scan the digital image data is used by computer aided design to cut the missing tooth from a Ceramic block with a computer aided milling machine (CAD/CAM).