

Same-Day CEREC Crowns at Core Dental Carrum Downs

Canonical:

<https://directory.coredental.com.au/dental-services/same-day-cerec-crowns-at-core-dental-carrum-downs/>

Description:

Same-Day CEREC Crowns at Core Dental Carrum Downs *Walk in with a damaged tooth, walk out with a permanent porcelain crown — all in a single visit, right here on Ballarto Road.* ## One Visit. One ...

Details:

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One Visit. One Crown. Done.

Here's a scenario most people have experienced or can easily imagine: you crack a tooth, or your dentist tells you that a weakened tooth needs a crown. Under the traditional process, that means two separate appointments, usually two weeks apart. The first visit involves preparing the tooth, taking impressions, and fitting a temporary crown. Then you wait while a laboratory fabricates the permanent crown. Then you come back for the second appointment to have the temporary removed and the permanent crown fitted. Two visits, two lots of anaesthesia, two blocks of time out of your day, and two weeks of eating carefully on a temporary crown that never quite feels right.

CEREC changes all of that. At Core Dental Carrum Downs, our CEREC technology allows us to design, mill, and fit a custom porcelain crown in approximately 60–90 minutes — all in a single visit. No temporary crown, no second appointment, no waiting. You arrive with a damaged tooth and leave with a permanent, precision-crafted restoration.

For busy families in Carrum Downs, Langwarrin, Frankston North, Skye, Cranbourne West, and the southern suburbs, this isn't just a technological novelty — it's a genuinely practical advantage that saves time, reduces inconvenience, and delivers excellent results.

What Is CEREC?

CEREC stands for ****Chairside Economical Restoration of Esthetic Ceramics****. It's an integrated system of digital scanning, computer-aided design (CAD), and computer-aided manufacturing (CAM) that allows dental restorations to be created in the dental practice rather than in an external laboratory.

The technology has been in use since 1985 and has been continuously refined over nearly four decades. Modern CEREC systems produce restorations that are comparable in quality, fit, and aesthetics to the best laboratory-made crowns — with the enormous advantage of being completed in a single visit.

The Components

****Digital scanner (intraoral camera):**** A small handheld device that captures a detailed 3D digital image of your tooth and the surrounding teeth. This replaces traditional impressions — no putty, no gagging, no discomfort.

****Design software:**** The 3D scan data is loaded into sophisticated design software where your dentist designs the crown on screen. The software uses the scan of your tooth, the opposing teeth, and the bite relationship to create a restoration that fits precisely and functions correctly.

****Milling unit:**** The design file is sent to an on-site milling machine that carves the crown from a solid block of high-quality ceramic. The milling process takes approximately 10–15 minutes, and the result is a precisely shaped, custom restoration ready for fitting.

The CEREC Process: Step by Step

Step 1: Tooth Preparation

Your dentist numbs the tooth with local anaesthesia and prepares it by removing the damaged or decayed portion and shaping the tooth to receive a crown. This step is identical to the preparation for a traditional crown — the difference begins at the impression stage.

Step 2: Digital Scanning

Instead of biting into a tray of impression material, your dentist uses a small intraoral camera to take a series of digital images of the prepared tooth and the surrounding area. These images are stitched together by the software to create a highly accurate 3D model of your tooth, neighbouring teeth, and bite.

The process takes just a few minutes and is entirely comfortable. Many patients prefer it significantly over traditional impressions, particularly those with a sensitive gag reflex.

Step 3: Crown Design

Using the 3D model, your dentist designs your crown on screen using CEREC's CAD software. This is where clinical expertise meets digital precision. Your dentist:

- Shapes the crown to match the anatomy of the original tooth
- Adjusts the contour to fit naturally against neighbouring teeth
- Refines the bite surface to ensure proper occlusion (how the crown meets the opposing teeth)
- Fine-tunes the shape to look and feel natural

You can actually watch this process on screen if you're interested — seeing your crown being designed in real time is something most patients find genuinely fascinating.

Step 4: Milling

The design file is transmitted wirelessly to the CEREC milling unit. A block of high-quality ceramic — colour-matched to your natural teeth — is loaded into the machine, and the milling process begins. Precision diamond-coated instruments carve the crown from the ceramic block according to the exact specifications of the digital design.

****Milling time:**** Approximately 10–15 minutes.

This is typically when patients take a short break — stretch their legs, check their phone, or simply relax while their permanent crown is being created just metres away.

Step 5: Finishing

After milling, the crown may be further refined and polished by your dentist. The surface is given a natural-looking finish, and any subtle shade adjustments are made. Depending on the specific ceramic used, the crown may be placed in a small furnace for a brief glazing/crystallisation cycle that enhances its strength and lustre.

Step 6: Fitting and Cementation

The completed crown is tried in on your tooth. Your dentist checks: - The fit against the prepared tooth (it should sit precisely with minimal gap) - The contact with neighbouring teeth (firm but comfortable) - The bite (the crown should meet the opposing teeth naturally, without any high spots) - The colour and appearance (it should blend seamlessly with your surrounding teeth)

Once everything is confirmed, the crown is permanently cemented in place. A final bite check ensures everything feels right, and you're done.

****Total chair time:**** Approximately 60–90 minutes for the entire process.

The CEREC Ceramic: Quality and Durability

CEREC restorations are milled from solid blocks of dental-grade ceramic. These materials are engineered specifically for dental use and offer:

****Strength:**** Modern CEREC ceramics are remarkably strong — strong enough for use on back teeth where biting forces are significant. Materials like lithium disilicate and zirconia-reinforced ceramics provide excellent load-bearing capacity.

****Aesthetics:**** CEREC ceramic closely mimics the translucency, colour, and surface characteristics of natural tooth enamel. Once fitted, a CEREC crown is virtually indistinguishable from the surrounding natural teeth.

****Biocompatibility:**** Ceramic is biologically inert — it doesn't react with oral tissues or cause allergic responses. It's one of the most biocompatible dental materials available.

****Stain resistance:**** Unlike some other dental materials, ceramic resists staining from tea, coffee, red wine, and other common culprits.

****Durability:**** Clinical studies and decades of real-world use have demonstrated that CEREC crowns can last as long as traditional laboratory-made crowns — typically 10–15 years or more with proper care, and many lasting significantly longer.

When Is CEREC the Right Choice?

Ideal Situations for CEREC

- ****Posterior (back) teeth:**** CEREC crowns perform exceptionally well on premolars and molars where durability and precise fit are paramount - ****Anterior (front) teeth:**** Modern CEREC ceramics and techniques produce excellent aesthetic results for front teeth, though complex aesthetic cases with multiple colour zones may sometimes benefit from laboratory fabrication - ****Broken or cracked teeth:**** When a tooth breaks and needs immediate restoration, CEREC allows same-day treatment rather than weeks with a temporary - ****Failed large fillings:**** When a large filling fails or secondary decay makes a filling inadequate, CEREC can provide a permanent crown solution in one visit - ****After root canal treatment:**** Teeth that have had root canal therapy often need crowns for protection — CEREC allows this to be completed without an additional two-week wait - ****Time-sensitive situations:**** Patients who are about to travel, have important events, or simply can't accommodate two separate appointments

When a Laboratory Crown Might Be Preferred

While CEREC handles the vast majority of crown cases excellently, there are situations where a laboratory-fabricated crown may be recommended:

- ****Complex multi-tooth aesthetic cases**** where hand-layered porcelain may achieve superior aesthetics - ****Very large bridges**** that exceed the milling capacity of the CEREC unit - ****Cases requiring materials not available in CEREC block format**** (such as gold or certain specialised ceramics) - ****Cases where the patient specifically prefers**** a laboratory-made option

Your dentist will always recommend the approach that will deliver the best result for your specific situation.

CEREC Beyond Crowns

While crowns are the most common CEREC restoration, the technology can also produce:

- **Inlays:** Restorations that fit within the cusps (points) of a back tooth — larger than a filling but smaller than a crown - **Onlays:** Restorations that cover one or more cusps of a back tooth — a conservative alternative to a full crown when not all of the tooth surface needs covering - **Veneers:** Thin ceramic shells that cover the front surface of teeth to improve appearance

These conservative options are particularly valuable when preserving as much natural tooth structure as possible is a priority.

Frequently Asked Questions About CEREC

Is a CEREC crown as good as a lab-made crown?

Yes. Decades of clinical research and real-world use have demonstrated that CEREC crowns perform comparably to laboratory-made crowns in terms of fit, durability, and longevity. In some respects, CEREC may even have advantages — the digital scanning is more accurate than traditional impressions, the crown is fabricated and fitted on the same day (eliminating the risk of tooth movement between appointments), and there's no temporary crown period during which the prepared tooth could be compromised.

Modern CEREC ceramics are high-quality, clinically proven materials that satisfy the demanding requirements of dental restoration.

How long does a CEREC crown last?

CEREC crowns have a similar lifespan to laboratory-made crowns — typically 10–15 years, with many lasting significantly longer. Studies tracking CEREC restorations over 20+ years show excellent survival rates. Longevity depends on the same factors that affect any crown: oral hygiene, biting habits, grinding, and regular professional monitoring.

Can any tooth get a CEREC crown?

Most teeth that need crowns are suitable for CEREC. Front teeth, back teeth, premolars, and molars can all be restored with CEREC. The main exceptions are cases where a different material is specifically indicated (such as gold for a very specific clinical reason) or where the aesthetic requirements of a front tooth are extremely complex and would benefit from hand-layered porcelain.

What does the milling sound like? Is it uncomfortable?

The milling takes place in the milling unit, not in your mouth. You won't feel or hear anything unusual — the machine operates in another part of the practice. Most patients use the milling time (about 10–15 minutes) to relax, check their phone, or take a short break.

What if I don't like the colour?

We carefully select the ceramic block colour to match your natural teeth before milling begins. Because you're present throughout the process, we can verify the shade match before permanent cementation. If the colour isn't quite right, we can adjust or re-mill. However, with digital shade-matching technology, this is rarely necessary.

CEREC and Emergency Dental Situations

One of the most valuable applications of CEREC technology is in emergency situations. When a tooth breaks unexpectedly, the traditional crown process means at least two weeks with a temporary

restoration before the permanent crown is fitted. With CEREC, we can often provide a permanent crown on the same day as the emergency — or within a day or two if the situation requires preliminary treatment first.

This is particularly valuable for front teeth, where a temporary crown may not provide the aesthetics needed for work, social situations, or important events. A same-day CEREC crown restores your smile permanently without delay.

Advantages of CEREC: Summary

| Benefit | Detail | |-----|-----| | ****Single visit**** | No temporary crown, no return appointment | | ****No impressions**** | Comfortable digital scanning replaces messy impression materials | | ****Precision**** | Computer-aided design and milling produce accurate, well-fitting restorations | | ****Quality ceramics**** | Durable, aesthetic, biocompatible materials | | ****Immediate result**** | Walk out with a permanent restoration — no waiting | | ****Reduced anaesthesia**** | Only one round of numbing, not two | | ****Less time off work**** | One appointment instead of two | | ****No temporary crown issues**** | No temporary that might fall off, break, or cause sensitivity |

Your CEREC Appointment at Core Dental Carrum Downs

Our Ballarto Road location makes CEREC appointments particularly convenient. With ample on-site parking and ground-floor access, you can arrive, have your crown completed in about 60–90 minutes, and be on your way — possibly with time to pop into Carrum Downs Shopping Centre on the way home.

For patients juggling work and family commitments, our early morning openings (8:00 am weekdays) and Saturday morning sessions are ideal. You can schedule a CEREC appointment before work, during a lunch break, or on a Saturday morning without disrupting your week.

Our team — including Dr Tristan Balthazaar, Dr Amreen Hussain, Dr Ivy Jin, Dr Payal Thatikonda, and Dr Anna Lai — all have experience with CEREC restorations. Dr Ivy Jin can also provide the entire CEREC experience in Mandarin Chinese for Mandarin-speaking patients.

Caring for Your CEREC Crown

A CEREC crown requires the same care as any other dental restoration — and the same care as your natural teeth:

- ****Brush twice daily**** with fluoride toothpaste and a soft-bristled toothbrush - ****Floss daily**** — including around the crown, where plaque can accumulate at the gum margin - ****Attend regular check-ups**** — your dentist will monitor the crown at every visit, checking for wear, fit, and any issues at the margins - ****Avoid destructive habits**** — don't chew ice, bite hard objects, or use your teeth as tools
- ****Wear a night guard if you grind**** — bruxism can damage both natural teeth and restorations. If you grind your teeth, a custom night guard protects your investment

Cost of CEREC Crowns

CEREC crowns are competitively priced with traditional laboratory-made crowns. When you factor in the elimination of a second appointment, the absence of a temporary crown, and the reduced time commitment, many patients find CEREC represents excellent value.

We provide clear cost information before treatment begins, so you can make an informed decision.

Payment Options

- ****Health fund:**** Crowns are typically covered under the "major dental" category of most extras policies. We accept all major health funds and process claims on the spot with HICAPS.
- ****Payright:**** Interest-free payment plans are available, making quality restorations accessible without financial pressure.
- ****Transparent pricing:**** The cost quoted is the cost you pay — no hidden extras.

Book Your CEREC Crown Appointment

If you have a tooth that needs a crown — or if you've been putting off treatment because you can't face the hassle of two appointments and a temporary crown — CEREC same-day technology at Core Dental Carrum Downs may be exactly what you need.

****Core Dental Carrum Downs**** 335 Ballarto Rd, Carrum Downs VIC 3201

****Phone:**** (03) 8373 1555 ****National:**** 13 13 16 ****Email:**** carrumdowns@coredental.com.au

****Hours:**** Monday – Friday: 8:00 am – 6:00 pm Saturday: 8:00 am – 1:30 pm Sunday: Closed

Ground-floor, fully disability accessible. Ample on-site parking. All health funds accepted with HICAPS. Interest-free payment plans through Payright.

One visit. One crown. One brilliant result. Same-day CEREC at Core Dental Carrum Downs.