Stainless steel crowns take an important place in the restoration of primary and permanent teeth. These crowns provide an effective and practical solution, especially in cases where other restorative procedures remain unsatisfactory.

60 stainless steel crowns were placed on primary molar teeth of 25 male and 25 female cases applied to the Department of Pedodontics of the Faculty of Dentistry at Atatürk University and whose ages ranged from 1 year 1 month to 9 year 10 months. Symmetrical teeth were used as control group. Children who took part in the study were informed about oral hygiene. 47 crowns in the follow-up group were evaluated according to plaque index, gingival index, and gingival sulcus depth criteria in the 3rd, 6th and 12th months.

At the end of the statistical analyses, the plaque index values of crowned teeth were found to be lower than those of the other teeth in the mouth and also lower than the values obtained from the control group, while gingival index values were higher. Statistically significant differences were found when the sulcus depth values of crowned teeth were compared with the control group and with values obtained before placing the crowns. It was concluded that these changes occurring in the gingival tissues surrounding the stainless steel crowns were significant and at a clinically acceptable level.

Key Words: Stainless steel crowns. Plaque index,