CLINICAL DETERMINATION OF CRACKS AND FRACTURES BASED ON LOCATION AND SEPARABLE SEGMENTS (INCLUDING TREATMENT)

Step 1: Where is crack or fracture located?
- F or L in enamel only (also common on marginal ridges)
- M-D and F-L in enamel and dentin of crown and root involving cusp
- M-D in enamel and dentin of crown only or crown and root (occasionally F-L)
- F-L in root only

Step 2: Are there separable segments?
- Nonseparable (incomplete fx)
- Nonseparable (incomplete fx)
- Separable (complete fx)
- Nonseparable (incomplete fx)
- Separable (complete fx)
- Nonseparable (incomplete) (one root surface)
- Separable (complete fx) (two root surfaces)

Step 3: What type of crack or fracture?
- Craze line
- Incomplete cuspal fracture (cuspal crack)
- Complete cuspal fracture
- Cracked tooth
- Split tooth
- Incomplete vertical root fracture
- Complete vertical foot fracture

Step 4: How to treat?
- No tx or esthetic tx only
- Retain or remove cusp (RCT if pulp exposed); cuspal-reinforced restoration
- Remove cusp (RCT if pulp exposed); cuspal-reinforced restoration
- RCT only if diagnosis dictates or pulp exposed; cuspal-reinforced restoration (may require extraction depending on extent of fx)
- 1. Extract and consider fixed or removable bridge, or implant OR 2. Other options (See text under treatment section of split tooth)
- Extraction or removal of involved root; consider fixed or removable bridge, or implant