

## Primary Management of Dental Trauma

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Dental trauma has often a great impact on the patient. Most dental trauma requires immediate action to save the injured teeth. The patient should be examined by a dentist as soon as possible after the trauma which means that the time schedule of the office will be disturbed. On the other hand, reaching an accurate diagnosis is crucial to establishing the prognosis for a traumatized tooth and selecting the appropriate treatment.

When the patient in the dental clinic, the patient should be asked about the conditions of trauma and what has happened since it occurred. A thorough examination (radiographs and pulp tests) combined with accurate records forms the basis for an appropriate treatment plan. If teeth are fractured and the soft tissues show lacerations, emergency treatment is chosen to provide a good prognosis for the tooth as well as an instant esthetic result that is well accepted by the patient.

The first-aid treatment should focus on psychological effects, repositioning of the teeth, splinting teeth that are mobile or have a root fracture, and repair of fractured crowns. Splinting is indicated for luxation or avulsion and should be maintained for a short period of 2

weeks. Teeth should be splinted rigidly and for a period of at least 3 months in fractures of the root or alveolar bone. When the dentin or the pulp is involved in the coronal fracture, the fracture site should be covered as soon as possible to prevent further irritation or infection of the pulp. Checking the occlusion is also important for the safe of the traumatized tooth. Depending on the type of trauma, follow-up visits should be planned for reexamination or for completion of the treatment.

The final treatment will depend on a number of factors, such as the prognosis of the traumatized teeth, the age of the patient, the condition of the rest of the dentition, and the financial resources and wishes of the patient.

Appropriate guidelines are needed to assist dentists as well as other health care professionals in producing the good care possible in the most efficient manner. It is very important to promote possible awareness and to educate the population at greatest risk for dental trauma.

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