

Dental Trauma During Anaesthesia

Managing Risks

Dental trauma occurs in 1:4500 operations. Most occur at intubation in patients over 50 with limited mouth opening.



Patient Factors

- ▶ Poor dental health
- ▶ Baby teeth
- ▶ Crowns, fillings and bridges



Anaesthetic Procedure

- ▶ Limited mouth opening
- ▶ LMA
- ▶ Difficult intubation
- ▶ Laryngoscopy
- ▶ Tracheal intubation



Pre-op Assessment and Consent

- ▶ Ask patients about loose teeth
- ▶ Feel teeth for looseness
- ▶ Warn patients of the risks
- ▶ Record dialogue in patient notes



Referral and Action

- ▶ Refer high risk patients to a dentist pre-procedure
- ▶ Use a bite block on solid back teeth or for patients with poor mouth access

Kings Dental Institute

Dr George Paolinelis, Professor Tara Renton,
Miss Serpil Djemal and Dr Norma McDonnell

For more information, please email: serpil.djemal@nhs.net

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Safe Anaesthesia Liaison Group

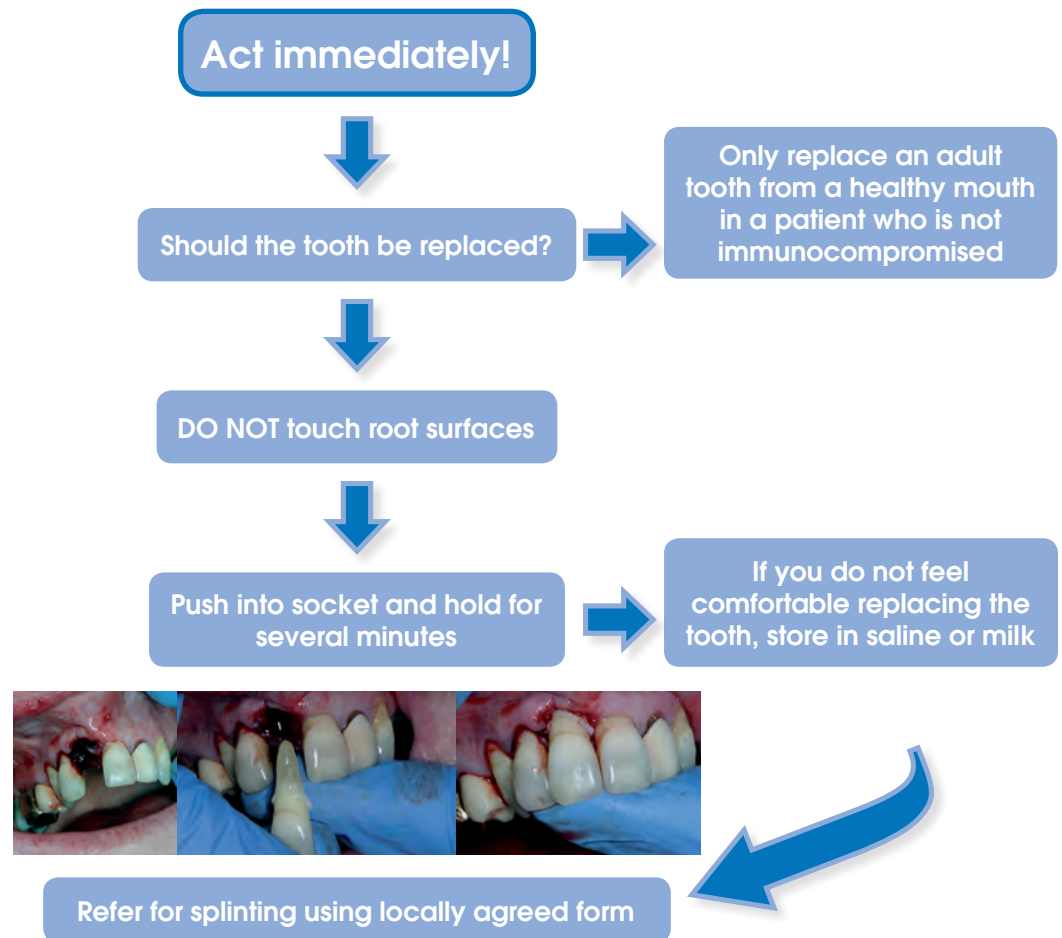


NHS

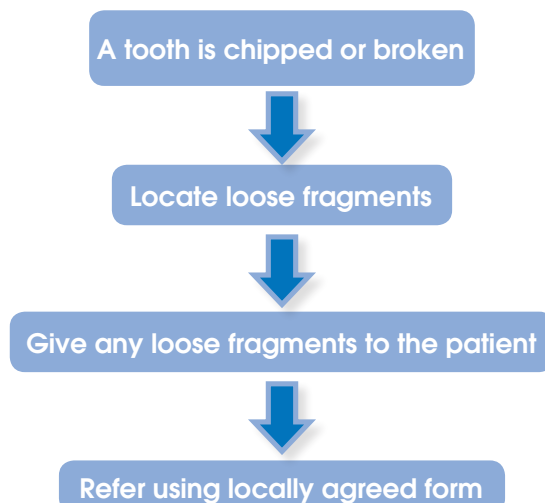
National Patient Safety Agency

Dental Trauma During Anaesthesia

Managing Avulsion (tooth out of socket)



Managing Damage



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Patient Referral Form

Date:

To: (HOSPITAL DENTAL SERVICE, LOCAL DENTIST, OR PATIENTS OWN DENTIST)

Re:

Name _____

ID _____

DOB _____

Address _____

This patient has sustained a dental injury during a general anaesthetic procedure.
Reason for referral:

Action taken:

Analgesia:

Replantation:

Splinting :

Name of referring doctor:

Grade:

Contact information:

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Post-operative Care

▶ If there are small lacerations in the mouth:

It is important to avoid agitating the affected site. Avoid spicy and hot food which might cause more discomfort or start bleeding.

▶ Bleeding:

Bleeding can be controlled by applying pressure with some gauze or a clean handkerchief over the bleeding area for at least five to ten minutes. If it persists contact _____.

▶ If a tooth has been lost:

The area will heal naturally, however, it is important to avoid disturbing the blood clot that is forming at the site. If there is excessive bleeding from the area, this can be controlled by biting on some gauze or a clean handkerchief against the area for at least 20 minutes. If it persists contact _____.

▶ If your tooth has been moved or dislodged or replanted:

You need to see a dentist as soon as possible. In the mean time:
Keep the area clean by use of a soft brush. Use a chlorhexidine mouthwash two to three times per day and warm salty water rinses four to five times per day.
Should the bite feel different, contact _____ as soon as possible.

Pain relief, if additional pain relieving medication is suggested, this is:

Department contact numbers and person to contact:

