

With summer upon us both children and adults are more likely to participate in sports and activities that can result in trauma to their teeth. Go to www.iadt-dentaltrauma.org/for-professionals.html and www.aae.org for comprehensive trauma guidelines; this newsletter provides a brief overview.

It is vital to see a trauma patient tout de suite; a delay in treatment lowers the prognosis for a favourable outcome. Re-bonding chipped enamel portions, pulp caps, partial pulpotomies are common recommendations for less involved trauma cases. Repositioning and splinting are priorities for more involved cases. Resist the urge to RCT every traumatised tooth, especially those with open apices. Often orthograde endodontic treatment need only be done within 7-10 days of the traumatic event. Monitor pulp vitality of teeth in the area as they are at a higher life-time risk for pulp necrosis. Below is a brief summary of points to consider for traumatised teeth:

- A single trauma event often affects teeth in both arches; test the pulp and periradicular of dentition in both arches
- These results are a valuable benchmark to compare future tests to; it is necessary to re-evaluate pulp and periradicular status at least once annually
- Take at least two angled periapical radiographs to rule out displacement, a root fracture (horizontal or vertical), or an alveolar fracture
- An occlusal radiograph is ideal to further examine the site
- A cone beam CT is worth considering if the fracture/chip involves more than the clinical crown; this is to evaluate further for root, alveolar, or jaw fractures
- Recent developments in vital pulp therapy allow root formation to continue in even the most unlikely cases
- Loose, subluxed, luxated (i.e. subluxed, extrusive luxation, lateral luxation, intrusive luxation), or avulsed teeth should be repositioned (in most cases) and splinted for 2-4 weeks
- Suture gingival lacerations

The patient should eat only soft foods for at least one week and brush immediately after each meal. Prescribe a 0.12% chlorhexidine rinse BID for two weeks. Recommend over-the-counter anti-inflammatory and pain medications for most cases and prescribe stronger medications for more involved trauma. Prescribe antibiotics for all avulsed teeth and consider a tetanus booster if the tooth has been in contact with soil.

A chipped tooth need not lead to a chip on the shoulder. With diligent care and follow-up, traumatised teeth need not cause drama for you and your team. When in doubt, ask your local endodontist.

Regards,



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If unsure, do not perform a RCT that day. If necessary, a RCT can often be performed within 7-10 days.

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Extended hours are also available

The Richmond Endodontic Centre Boardroom is open; it is available for meetings, lectures, and study clubs. Please come by and have a look at our new presentation centre!