

**Dental Injuries**  
**101**  
Nicole M. Breton BS, RDH



# Dental Injuries 101

- An average of 22,000 annually occurred among children less than 18 years of age.
- Over 80% of all dental injuries involve the upper teeth.
- 30% of preschoolers have had a dental injury of some kind.
- Of all sports, baseball and basketball were associated with the largest number of dental injuries.
- Children with primary teeth, less than 7 years olds sustained over half of the dental injuries in activities associated with home furniture.
- Outdoor recreational products and activities were associated with the largest number of dental injuries among children ages 7-12 years of age.



# Dental Injuries 101

Management and dental trauma evaluation

- Check airway, breathing, and, circulation
- Determine if there is any other life-threatening injuries present.
- Perform a neurological exam.
- Assess the cervical spine.
- Evaluate extra oral soft tissue injuries.
- Conduct intraoral examination
- Determine if the injury is to primary or permanent teeth
- Assess availability of dental care



# Dental Injuries 101

Three broad categories resulting from impacts during play to the soft tissues, the jaws and teeth.

- **Soft Tissues** – bruises, lacerations and cuts to the lips, cheeks and tongue.
- **Jaws** – Dislocations of the lower jaw (mandible) or fractures of the upper arch (maxillary).
- **Dental** – Tooth related this can be as simple as a chipped tooth or as serious as an avulsion (tooth removed from the socket)



# Dental Injuries 101

- The goal is to try and save the teeth that have been affected.
- Avoid tooth loss
- Assessment, diagnosis and treatment will differ from damaged baby teeth and adult teeth.



# Dental Injuries 101

Immediate treatment – Within 5 minutes

For a tooth that has been completely knocked out (avulsed tooth)

- Physically trying to place the tooth back into the socket
- Rinse the tooth with clean water (Do not scrub or scrape the root surfaces)
- Hold the tooth's crown and push it back into the socket. You will need to hold the tooth in the socket for several minutes to keep it from extruding back out of the socket.
- It is okay if it's not completely aligned the dentist can adjust it later.



# Dental Injuries 101

What if no one can replant the tooth?

- Control the bleeding with pressure
- Place the tooth in either cold milk or the patients saliva to keep it from drying out.
- If the person needs to be transported to their dental provider/ emergency room immediately.

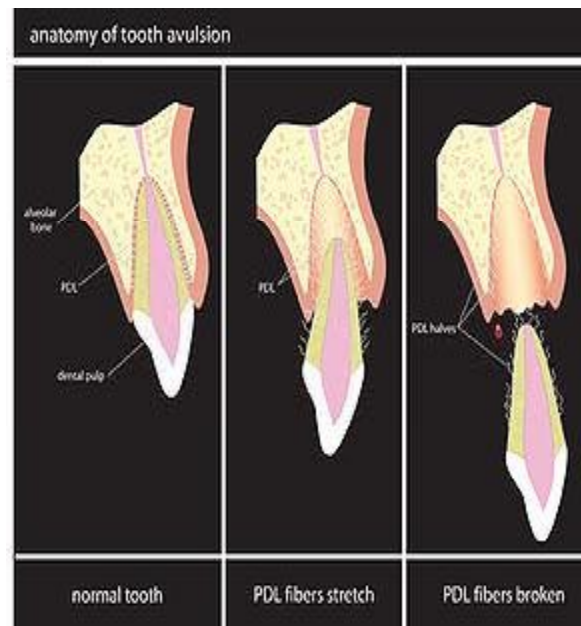




# Dental Injuries 101

Why replant the tooth within 5 minutes?

- Evidence suggest that placing the tooth back into the socket is an important factor for long term survival of knocked out teeth.







# Dental Injuries 101

More than 5 minutes

- Transporting the tooth in milk or the persons own saliva will keep the tooth from drying out. If the tooth dries out it will be unable to regenerate the periodontal ligament cells.



# Dental Injuries 101



What if a baby tooth is completely knocked out?

- Primary teeth (baby) are different than adult teeth and the treatment is different.
- Primary teeth are generally not replanted into the socket.
- The reason is for not replanting is the primary tooth may cause an infection to spread to the permanent tooth, it may also affect the eruption pattern of the permanent tooth.





# Dental Injuries 101





# Dental Injuries 101

Urgent Treatment – Within 6 hours

A painful injury from a permanent tooth moved from it's original position

- This will cause the tooth/teeth to be driven in or out of the jaw.
- This may cause a fracture to the roots of the teeth.
- The person should seek treatment as soon as possible.
- If the person has a dental provider it's best to contact them immediately.
- The dentist may be able to splint the teeth back together



# Dental Injuries 101





# Dental Injuries

## Primary (baby) Tooth Injuries

- If the child is unable to bite and close his teeth together normally, you should contact the Child's dental provider as soon as possible or go to the emergency room.
- Primary teeth can be treated up to 6 hours this will usually not have an impact on the long-term outcomes.
- Contact the child's medical and or dental provider

