

## Clyde Emergency Department Tooth Avulsion Protocol

The avulsion (complete displacement of a tooth from its socket) of a permanent tooth is a serious injury, and hence requires fast and accurate management in order to provide a patient with the best prognosis.

### Prehospital Management

- Reassure the patient
- Locate the tooth, handling only the crown and avoiding touching the root
- Washing the tooth should be carried out for a maximum of 10 seconds under cold water.
- Reposition the tooth and encourage the replantation of the tooth.
- Once the tooth is back in place, biting on a handkerchief helps to hold it in its position

### Replantation not possible?

- Place the tooth in a glass of milk (or another suitable storage medium) and bring it with the patient to the emergency department.

*Failing to implant the tooth, or suitably store it appropriately within the first hour since avulsion makes it non-viable for further treatment. After 60 minutes 'drytime', periodontal ligament cells likely will not survive.*

### Clinical Management

#### *Prehospital replantation*

- Clean the replanted tooth with water spray, saline or chlorhexidine
  - Suture any gingival lacerations
  - Verify normal position of tooth clinically and
  - Apply a flexible splint for up to 2 weeks ( you may have to arrange this with Max Fax or Dentist)
  - Check tetanus protection
- Consider antibiotic cover after discussion with above

#### *Appropriately stored tooth or within 60 minutes*

- Clean the tooth
  - Administer local anaesthesia
  - Irrigate the socket with saline
  - Replant the tooth slowly without forcing it
  - Suture any gingival lacerations
  - Verify normal position of tooth clinically and
- Apply a flexible splint for up to 2 weeks- ( you may have to arrange this with Max Fax or Dentist)
- Check tetanus protection
  - Consider antibiotic cover after discussion with above

*Outwith 60 minutes or suspected unviable tooth - Refer dentist*

### Discharge advice

- Avoid participation in contact sports
- Soft diet for up to 2 weeks
- Brush teeth with a soft toothbrush after each meal
- Use an antiseptic mouth rinse twice a day for 1 week

**Follow up with dentist in the absence of facial fractures. Consider maxillofacial surgical involvement with fractures.**

## References

International Association of Dental Traumatology guidelines for the management of traumatic dental injuries: 2. Avulsion of permanent teeth. *Dental Traumatology*. 28: 88–96. doi: 10.1111/j.1600-9657.2012.01125.x