



Tooth Avulsion

With school being let out for the summer its time for vacations, adventures, and lot of other fun activities. No one ever expects anything bad to happen, but are you prepared in case something does happen?



As an endodontist one of the most damaging and traumatic accidents that can happen to a tooth and child is for a tooth to be avulsed. Tooth avulsion when the tooth is completely ejected from its socket. Avulsion of a permanent tooth is serious injury. The actions that are taken at the time of injury plays a large part in the prognosis of the tooth. Avulsion injuries are very time sensitive.

The amount of time the tooth spends out of its socket is the biggest factor. If the tooth is out of the socket for more than 15 minutes the prognosis for the tooth drops drastically. The best course of action is put the avulsed tooth back into its socket immediately. If you are comfortable placing the tooth back in its socket try to handle the tooth by the crown and rinse the root off gently. Place the tooth gently back in the socket and contact your dentist immediately. However, this is not always possible. Here are a few steps that can be taken to help the tooth if it cannot be placed into its socket at the time of injury.

Place the tooth back in the socket or in a storage solution ASAP. Ideally in less than 15 min.

If the tooth cannot be placed back into the socket immediately it needs to be stored in some sort of storage solution that will help keep the cells on the root structure of the tooth alive. Hank's Balanced Salt Solution (HBSS) is probably the best solution for storing the tooth. There is a commercially available product called Save-a-Tooth that contains HBSS. Milk, long shelf life milk, Similac, and Enfamil are also some decent storage solutions that can help preserve the tooth. Those solutions can be used to store the tooth in for a couple of hours. Storing the tooth in your mouth is not generally advised because of the bacteria in the mouth. The acid level can also damage the cells on the root of the tooth. Another concern is the accidental swallowing of the tooth.



Contact your dentist right away!

Water, sports drinks, and contact solutions are not recommended storage solutions. They can damage the cells on the root of the tooth which will degrade the prognosis of the tooth. Try to use one of the solutions listed above.

I hope you and your family have a great summer!

-FROM DR. JASON MICHEL D.D.S AND THE STAFF OF TEXARKANA ENDODONTICS