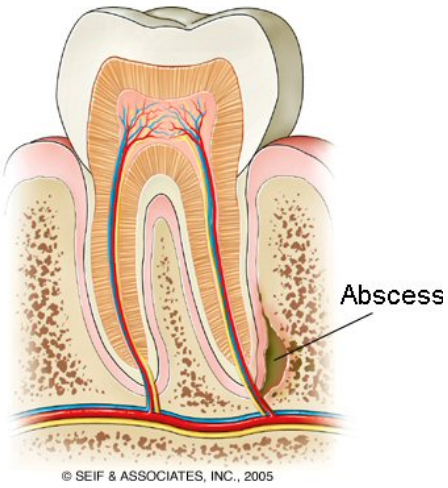
Abscessed Tooth

An abscessed tooth is an infection around your tooth. It may be caused by holes or damage to the tooth (*cavity*) or a dental disease. An abscessed tooth causes mild to very bad pain in and around the tooth. See your dentist right away for care if you or your child has tooth or gum pain.



HOME CARE

- Take all medicine as told by your doctor or dentist.
- **Do not** drive after taking pain medicine.
- Rinse the mouth (*gargle*) often with salt water (1/4 teaspoon salt in 8 ounces of warm water).
- **Do not** apply heat to the outside of the face.

GET HELP RIGHT AWAY IF:

- You or your child has a temperature by mouth above 102° F (38.9° C), not controlled by medicine.
- Chills and a very bad headache develop.
- You or your child has problems breathing or swallowing.
- The mouth will not open.
- Puffiness (*swelling*) into the neck or around the eye develops.
- There is pain that is not helped by medicine.
- The pain is getting worse instead of better.

MAKE SURE YOU:

- Understand these instructions.
- Will watch this condition.
- Will get help right away if you or your child is not doing well or gets worse.

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