Tooth Loss (Avulsion)

You have an avulsed tooth. This means the tooth has been knocked out. Baby teeth need to come out, so treatment includes controlling bleeding and pain. Permanent teeth may be successfully reimplanted in some cases. The sooner the tooth is cleaned and replaced in the proper position in the socket, the better the chance it can be saved. Evaluation by a dentist as soon as possible is needed so that the tooth may be positioned and wired or bonded in place. A temporary splint may be used to hold the tooth in place for the first 1-2 days.

This can be helped with emergency care if the entire tooth has been knocked out. This type of repair can be done only if the re-insertion of the tooth can be done within two hours of the accident. It is best if it can be done within a few minutes of the accident. A dentist should be seen as soon as possible. Your dentist will discuss your options with you. A broken tooth cannot be repaired immediately. This is a tooth that has been *fractured* (broken) off with the roots left behind.

STEPS TO TAKE IF THIS HAPPENS AGAIN

- Do not handle the tooth by the root.
- Wash the tooth off in clean water but not under a tap. Do not scrub the tooth.
- You may try to replace the tooth in the socket. Gently bite down on it to get it in place.
- If trying to replace the tooth does not work, keep the tooth in a glass of milk or you may keep it in your own mouth if there is no danger of swallowing it. Do not have a small child attempt to keep their tooth in the mouth because of danger of swallowing or getting it into the windpipe.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- You can use ice packs along your jaw to help control swelling and pain.
- For the next few days eat a liquid or soft diet and rinse your mouth out with warm water after meals.
- Watch for signs of infection.
- You should see your dentist or go to the emergency room right away if you have increased pain, swelling, or uncontrolled bleeding.
- An avulsed tooth will require stabilization for 1-2 months to ensure proper healing.

If your tooth was replaced today, follow up with your caregiver as suggested.

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