# Dental Dry Socket

You have a dental dry socket infection. This can occur 2 to 3 days after a tooth is pulled. If the blood clot covering the healing empty socket is lost, an infection develops in the surrounding bone. This causes severe pain and sometimes a foul smelling drainage. Smokers or people who use straws are prone to this complication because of the problem with sucking and removing the clot from the empty socket.

Treatment can include a numbing shot, cleaning the infected socket and putting a medicated pack or paste in the socket. Pain medication and antibiotics may also be prescribed. Most important is reevaluation by a dentist within 1 to 2 days because the packing often needs to be changed daily.

**SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:**

- You have severe pain, increased swelling, a high fever, vomiting, or other worrisome symptoms.

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