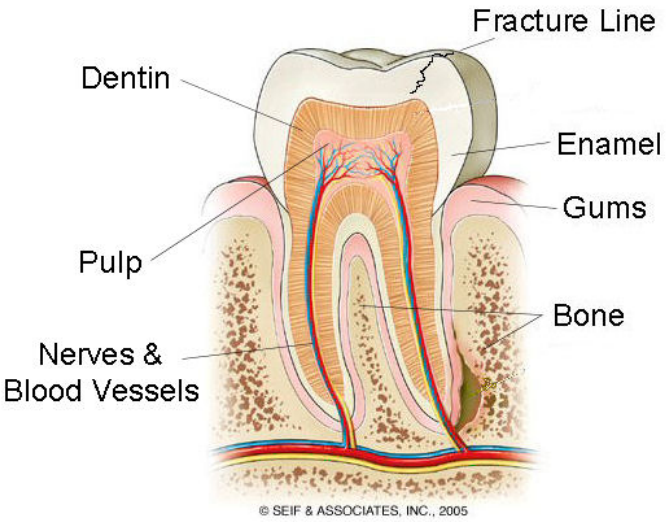
Dental Pain (Tooth Ache)

A tooth ache may be caused by *cavities* (tooth decay). Cavities expose the nerve of the tooth to air and hot or cold temperatures. It may come from an infection or abscess (also called a boil or furuncle) around your tooth. It is also often caused by *dental caries* (tooth decay). This causes the pain you are having.



DIAGNOSIS

Your caregiver can diagnose this problem by exam.

TREATMENT

- If caused by an infection, it may be treated with medications which kill germs *(antibiotics*) and pain medications as prescribed by your caregiver. Take medications as directed.
- Only take over-the-counter or prescription medicines for pain, discomfort, or fever as directed by your caregiver.
- **Whether the tooth ache today is caused by infection or dental disease, you should see your dentist as soon as possible for further care.**

SEEK MEDICAL CARE:

The exam and treatment you received today has been provided on an emergency basis only. **This is not a substitute for complete medical or dental care**. If your problem worsens or new problems *(symptoms*) appear, and you are unable to meet with your dentist, call or return to this location.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You develop a fever over 102° F (38° C).
- You develop redness and swelling of your face, jaw, or neck.
- You are unable to open your mouth.
- You have severe pain uncontrolled by pain medicine.

MAKE SURE YOU:

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

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