Treating Dental Injuries

Anytime there is a dental injury, knowing what to do and how fast you need to react can mean the difference between saving or losing a tooth. And the person you need the most—a dentist—is probably not there. For this reason, Dear Doctor created this field-side guide so that anyone can assist the injured person.

WARNING: Anytime an injury involves blood, it is strongly advised that you protect both your health and the health of the patient by avoiding direct, unprotected contact with any blood or bodily fluids. You should wear protective gloves when assisting a bleeding, injured person. If none are available, you may use a clean plastic bag or other sterile form of protection.

For purposes of discussion and clarity, time lines have been suggested related to the type of injury and treatment needed; however, it is your dentist who should make that final decision.

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NOTE: The editorial content in this quick reference guide is a tool to assist you and your family in treating a dental injury/emergency and is not intended to replace guidance from your dental care provider. Always contact your dentist before taking any action or making any decisions about your dental health.

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