Dental trauma occurs in 1:4500 operations. Most occur at intubation in patients over 50 with limited mouth opening.

**Patient Factors**
- Poor dental health
- Baby teeth
- Crowns, fillings and bridges

**Anaesthetic Procedure**
- Limited mouth opening
- LMA
- Difficult intubation
- Laryngoscopy
- Tracheal intubation

**Pre-op Assessment and Consent**
- Ask patients about loose teeth
- Feel teeth for looseness
- Warn patients of the risks
- Record dialogue in patient notes

**Referral and Action**
- Refer high risk patients to a dentist pre-procedure
- Use a bite block on solid back teeth or for patients with poor mouth access

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**Kings Dental Institute**
Dr George Paolinelis, Professor Tara Renton, Miss Serpil Djemal and Dr Norma McDonnell
For more information, please email: serpil.djemal@nhs.net
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**Safe Anaesthesia Liaison Group**
National Patient Safety Agency

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Dental Trauma During Anaesthesia

Managing Avulsion (tooth out of socket)

Act immediately!

Should the tooth be replaced?

DO NOT touch root surfaces

Push into socket and hold for several minutes

Only replace an adult tooth from a healthy mouth in a patient who is not immunocompromised

If you do not feel comfortable replacing the tooth, store in saline or milk

Refer for splinting using locally agreed form

Managing Damage

A tooth is chipped or broken

Locate loose fragments

Give any loose fragments to the patient

Refer using locally agreed form

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Safe Anaesthesia Liaison Group
National Patient Safety Agency
Patient Referral Form

Date:

To: (HOSPITAL DENTAL SERVICE, LOCAL DENTIST, OR PATIENTS OWN DENTIST)

Re:

Name ____________________________________________________________________________

ID ______________________________________________________________________________

DOB _____________________________________________________________________________

Address __________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

This patient has sustained a dental injury during a general anaesthetic procedure.
Reason for referral:

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

Action taken:

Analgesia:

Replantation:

Splinting :

Name of referring doctor:

Grade:

Contact information:

Post-operative Care

► If there are small lacerations in the mouth:
It is important to avoid agitating the affected site. Avoid spicy and hot food which might cause more discomfort or start bleeding.

► Bleeding:
Bleeding can be controlled by applying pressure with some gauze or a clean handkerchief over the bleeding area for at least five to ten minutes. If it persists contact _________________________.

► If a tooth has been lost:
The area will heal naturally, however, it is important to avoid disturbing the blood clot that is forming at the site. If there is excessive bleeding from the area, this can be controlled by biting on some gauze or a clean handkerchief against the area for at least 20 minutes. If it persists contact _________________________.

► If your tooth has been moved or dislodged or replanted:
You need to see a dentist as soon as possible. In the mean time:
Keep the area clean by use of a soft brush. Use a chlorhexidine mouthwash two to three times per day and warm salty water rinses four to five times per day. Should the bite feel different, contact _______________________ as soon as possible.

Pain relief, if additional pain relieving medication is suggested, this is:

___________________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________

Department contact numbers and person to contact:

___________________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________

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