

When a tooth is knocked out ...don't delay!

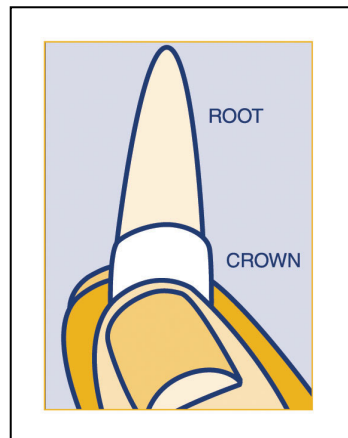
QUICK ACTION CAN SAVE THE TOOTH...time is critical!

Teeth can be knocked completely out of a person's mouth by various accidents – for example at home, in playgrounds, in sport, or motor vehicle accidents. These teeth can be saved by quick action. The teeth can be put straight back into place in the mouth (replanted), and can usually return to normal function and appearance. The most critical factor in replanting a tooth is time. Quick action to locate the tooth, clean it, replant it, or keep it moist will give the best chance for success. Teeth that are replanted within 30 minutes have the best chance of surviving. The time taken to obtain dental treatment from a dentist is also critical. If possible have someone telephone to alert the dentist of the accident

What Should You Do?

First

- Remain calm
- Find the tooth
- Handle the tooth only by the crown (whiter part) and not by the root (yellow part).



Then 1

If the tooth is clean:

- Replant immediately. Use the other teeth as a guide.
- Have the patient hold the tooth in place with finger pressure; or bite on a handkerchief to keep the tooth in place.
- Seek immediate dental treatment – remember time is critical.

2

If the tooth is dirty:

- Clean and replant as soon as possible
- If available, rinse in milk and then replant.
- If milk is not immediately available then rinse briefly in cold water or have the patient gently suck the tooth clean then replant.
- Seek immediate dental treatment – remember time is critical.

3

If you are unable to replant, keep the tooth moist by either:

- Placing it completely submerged in milk, or
- Alternatively sealing it in plastic wrap (e.g. Glad Wrap®), or placing it in the patient's mouth next to the cheek.
- But do not store tooth in water or detergents.
- Seek immediate dental treatment – remember time is critical.

4

If the tooth root appears broken:

- Replant in socket
- Or place in milk or plastic wrap
- Seek immediate dental treatment – remember time is critical.

What You Must Not Do?

- **DO NOT** hold the root surface.
- **DO NOT** scrape or rub the root surface.
- **DO NOT** let the tooth dry out.
- **DO NOT** rinse in water for more than a few seconds.
- **DO NOT** store the tooth in water.
- **DO NOT** delay seeking dental treatment

What Will **The Dentist Do?**

If the tooth has been replanted the dentist will make sure that it is correctly positioned. If it has not been replanted, then the dentist will replant it. The tooth must then be splinted in place for a short time. Your dentist will also examine the mouth for other injuries and advise how to care for the injured tooth. Your dentist also recommends antibiotics and possibly a tetanus booster to prevent infection due to contamination of the tooth and wound. The tooth may need further treatment to avoid any problems developing – your dentist will discuss this with you.

Who Treats **Knocked Out Teeth?**

All dentists are trained to treat teeth that have been knocked out. They can all provide emergency and follow-up treatment which usually includes root canal treatment. Endodontists are specialists who receive extra training in the treatment of injuries to the teeth and in root canal treatment. Some dentists refer patients to specialist Endodontists to continue treatment. If specialist care is indicated, your dentist will discuss this with you.

Need To Know **More?**

If you want to know more about teeth that have been knocked out, your dentist or Endodontist will be happy to talk with you.