

Fast Facts

Abscessed Tooth

- Caused by bacteria getting into your gum through a dental cavity or chip/crack in the tooth
 - Results in a collection of pus and inflammation
 - Two types: periodontal and periapical
 - Periodontal abscesses form in the gums at the side of a tooth
- Periapical abscesses are more common and start at the tip of the tooth root and effect the dental pulp
- Each tooth has dental pulp because it contains the blood vessels, nerves and connective tissue your teeth need
 - Can result in serious complications if its left untreated

<i>Symptoms</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Prevention</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Persistent, severe, throbbing pain -Pain radiates to jaw/neck/ear -Fever -Swelling to the gum and/or face and cheek -Sensitivity to hot/cold foods and/or biting and chewing -Tender/swollen lymph nodes in the bottom part of jaw or neck -Swelling interferes with ability to breath or swallow <p><i>If abscess ruptures:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Foul-smelling and tasting fluid in your mouth -Decrease in pain level 	<p>Goal: To get rid of the infection before it spreads to other areas of your body</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Make a small incision to drain the fluid and pus and flush with saline -Root canal to drain and remove the diseased dental pulp -Pull tooth (if needed) -Take antibiotics <p><i>After any of the treatments:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Gently rinse mouth with warm salt water -Take over-the-counter pain relievers, like acetaminophen and ibuprofen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Use fluoridated drinking water -Eat healthy foods that don't have large amounts of sugar -Avoid snacking between meals -Brush teeth at least twice a day -Use dental floss daily -Replace toothbrush when the bristles are frayed (usually every 3 – 4 months) -Visit dentist for checkups/cleanings regularly -Use antiseptic/fluoride mouth rinse -Talk to your doctor about what your options if your medications cause dry mouth

Note: If at any time you are having difficulty swallowing or breathing, you should go to the nearest emergency room. If you are having symptoms of an abscessed tooth and are unable to see a dentist right away, go to urgent care or emergency room to see if you need to start taking antibiotics while waiting to get in to the dentist.

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