

Definition of Dental Emergency

Urgent examples:

Dental bleeding that will not stop - Any bleeding that cannot be controlled by firm continuous pressure from a pack for 10 minutes may need stitches.

Most commonly happens after tooth extraction, due to infection or alcohol, aspirin, drugs etc.

Acute spreading infection (swelling of the lip tongue or cheek) - This can get rapidly larger and block the airway and cause breathing problems.

Most commonly due to rapidly spreading infection or bleeding.

Damage to teeth or jaws as the result of an accident – can affect speech, teeth may not meet together properly, swelling inside mouth, limited mobility, pain etc.

Most commonly happens after an accident, blow to chin etc.

Non Urgent examples:

These are the more common and can include toothaches, broken dentures, chipped teeth, lost fillings, loose crowns etc. that are usually very inconvenient socially, with any pain being controlled with over the counter painkillers or remedies from the local Chemist or Pharmacy.

Even good dental treatments can result in complications especially if the tooth was badly decayed or had many problems in the past.

This is why regular dental care, early dental treatment and prevention are ALWAYS best!