

DESCRIPTION

DENTAL CARIES

A term used to describe decay of a tooth due to the loss of enamel. Symptoms typically include pain that increases with heat, cold and chewing.

DENTAL ABSCESS

An infection under the gum or tooth, usually caused by dental caries. Symptoms may include pain and swelling of the tooth and/or gums. More serious infections can also cause fever and facial swelling.

DONTALGIA (Toothache)

Pain of the tooth due to irritation of the nerve by decay, infection or trauma. Symptoms are the same as those associated with Dental Caries.

TREATMENT

Urgent Care Physicians are not dentists. Care received at and Urgent Care Center is intended to offer temporary relief from the symptoms associated with your dental complaint and to possibly treat infection. Once an infection develops in a tooth, it will persist until it is drained by surgery, a root canal is performed or the tooth is extracted. You must follow-up with a dentist or oral surgeon as soon as possible.

- Avoid hot or cold food and beverages.
- Over-the-counter medications designed to relieve dental pain such as Oil of Clove and Orajel may offer some relief.
- Apply a cold pack to the jaw.
- Use over-the-counter pain medications like Ibuprofen, Acetaminophen, or Naproxen for pain.
- In some cases the physician may prescribe a stronger pain medication.
- Antibiotics or steroids may also be prescribed if needed.
 - Unless your doctor tells you differently, always finish the full course of your antibiotic and steroid prescriptions, even if you start to feel better.
 - Antibiotics and steroids may interfere with the effectiveness of birth control pills. Use an alternative method of contraception for the remainder of the month after finishing your antibiotic or steroid prescription.

SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION IF

- You experience redness or swelling of the face.
- You notice swelling under the tongue or in the neck.
- You develop a fever greater than 100.5 F.
- Pain increases.
- There is pus draining from the tooth.
- You experience difficulty speaking or swallowing.

DIAL 911 OR SEEK EMERGENCY TREATMENT IMMEDIATELY IF

- You have difficulty breathing.