

A Dental Emergency: What Is And What Isn't

*The photos below are not actual patients
of Barry D. Lyon, D.D.S. and Associates, L.L.C.*

A True Dental Emergency involves:

- Pain that lasts hours
- Pain that is spontaneous or provoked by chewing
- Pain that is not relieved by over-the-counter pain relievers
- Pain that wakes your child at night
- Swelling of the face or within the mouth
- Injuries to the mouth that result in a knocked out tooth, lacerations, bleeding, or serious tooth fracture.

Pain or injury of this nature requires an office visit. Pain or injury of this nature **PLUS** facial swelling is an emergency and requires an office visit, a call to one of the doctors on call, or a trip to the emergency room.



This is a serious infection of the face that requires immediate attention.



Swelling of the gums requires an office visit and treatment with antibiotics.



Injuries such as a knocked-out tooth or fracture are emergencies.

**These are not dental emergencies,
but they require an office visit and attention:**

- Pain that lasts only a few seconds and occurs sporadically
- Fleeting pain from eating sweets or cold foods
- Abscessed teeth or “gum boils” without pain
- Oral Herpes infections



Small cavities that may be sensitive to sweets or cold foods.



An abscessed tooth with “gum boils” like this is often not painful.



An oral Herpes infection with blisters and swollen gums.

**These are not dental emergencies
and can wait for a regularly scheduled appointment:**

- “Double teeth”
- Mouth ulcers



**These are “double teeth” and do not require treatment
unless the baby teeth are not loose.**



This is a simple mouth ulcer that will heal without any treatment.