

Accidents do happen! - Trauma to your teeth

An avulsed tooth is one that has been knocked out by a blow to the mouth or an accident.

It is sometimes possible to replace the tooth in the tooth socket if it is done very quickly.

If your mouth is bleeding where the tooth has been knocked out, take a clean cotton handkerchief and hold it over the tooth socket. Bite down and keep your jaw together to keep the pressure on. If you need to take a painkiller, do not take any medication containing aspirin as this can encourage further bleeding. Do not apply clove oil, often sold in shops, to the area. Try not to panic!

If you still have the tooth and it is intact, try not to handle it too much. If it is very dirty, rinse it carefully in milk and wipe it with a clean cloth. **DO NOT** clean it with disinfectant or water or let it dry out.

Hold the tooth by the crown and put it back into the socket firmly, root first. Bite on a clean handkerchief for about 15 – 20 minutes.

If you cannot get the tooth back in, your tooth has more chance of survival if you keep it in your cheek. If this is not possible, keep it in some milk.

If the tooth is broken, or you only have part of it, it is not a good idea to attempt to put it back in the socket.

In all cases it is important that you get emergency dental treatment as soon as possible. Contact your dental surgeon and explain what has happened. They will see you for an assessment and may need to x-ray the tooth. They can then discuss with you any further treatment that may be required.

If the tooth re-implants successfully you may not need further treatment. If the re-implantation fails, there are other options to fill the gap. These include dentures, bridges and titanium implants.

Fixed bridges

This does involve some preparation of the teeth either side of the lost teeth.



Before



After

Dental Implant

Used to replace a single lost tooth



Before



After

To avoid trauma to a tooth there are some precautions you can take. You should always wear a mouth guard to protect your teeth from a blow to the mouth when playing contact sports or dangerous physical activity.