

COLUMN

My daughter broke out her adult front teeth!

More than 5 million teeth are knocked out every year in children and adults. As a parent, this can be a traumatizing event if this happens to your child. As a dentist, I have witnessed this situation numerous times and have always been sympathetic to the child and the parents. Unfortunately, I never thought that it would happen to me or my family. Last week, I received the dreaded phone call from my wife that my 9-year-old daughter had fallen, face-first, onto the curb and broken her front two teeth in half. You would think that because I am a dentist that it would have affected me less than other parents because I deal with this situation so often ... this couldn't be further from the truth. I was sick to my stomach.

What made things worse was when I got my daughter on the phone and I tried to reassure her that dad was going to fix her and make her beautiful. Her response was, "There is no way you can fix this, daddy!" The more I thought about this, I realized this is probably the most common thought among kids and parents in this situation. Thankfully, because of the advances in modern dentistry, we have many ways to rebuild your teeth even in an emergency like this, so I wanted to share this experience with you and hope you never need this information.

When my daughter got to my office, she was understandably very upset and scared. When I assessed the situation, I realized that she had lost over 50% of both of her front two teeth! Because of her age and the timing of her development, I was limited to what I could do to fix things, but it is very important to treat things properly in order to save these teeth and hopefully avoid future issues.

There are many things we need to consider and be concerned with when an accident like this occurs:

1. **Has the nerve of the tooth been traumatized which would require root canal treatment?**
2. **Is the root of the tooth fully developed?**
3. **How much of the tooth has been lost, and is it still restorable?**

We immediately took the necessary digital radiographs to see if the nerves of the teeth were compromised. If the fracture did invade the nerves of the teeth, root canal treatment would have been necessary that day; thankfully this wasn't the case.

Unfortunately, the teeth still may require root canals later on in life due to this trauma. They can become symptomatic within the next week, month or years to come, and therefore will need to be monitored with yearly radiographs. I even called a close colleague who is my local endodontist (root canal specialist), and he recommended re-evaluating the teeth in 14 days as the first precaution.

Just like most patients who have been involved in a dental trauma, my daughter was very emotional and very uncomfortable. Her lips and face were all swollen and cut, and the thought of any dental work just made things worse. However, we always take extra time and care with our patients to make them comfortable and reassure them that it will be a pain-free experience.

My assistant gave my daughter headphones to drown out the inevitable noise (she chose Taylor Swift, of course) and applied our dermatological grade topical anesthetic so that she felt **nothing** when I gave her an injection. We then got started ...

Due to my daughter's age, and the incomplete development of her front teeth roots, we used "composite bonding" to rebuild her teeth.

This will hopefully help to protect the exposed tooth

from potential nerve problems and with the cosmetic techniques and materials of modern dentistry, will give my daughter back her beautiful smile.

When we were done, I gave my daughter the mir-

ror, and despite her extremely swollen and numb lip, that gorgeous smile appeared on her face!

continues on page 22 ...



Dentally Speaking
by
Jeffrey S.
Haddad D.D.S.

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Like I previously mentioned, this is still a waiting game to see if the health of the nerves and remaining tooth structure will remain stable and asymptomatic. I also educated my daughter just like I educate other patients in this situation on what symptoms she may

experience.

Here are the possible symptoms of teeth that require root canal treatment following trauma:

1. Spontaneous pain with any of the affected teeth.

- 2. Extreme cold sensitivity, with lingering throbbing or pain.
- 3. Continued percussion sensitivity or pain while chewing after several weeks.
- 4. Presence of an abscess or infection (looks like a white "pimple" on

the gums).

In addition, when she gets into her teens and young adulthood, porcelain veneers will most likely be necessary for strength and longevity on those teeth. Thankfully, modern dentistry has options that will make her smile as healthy and natural as she was before the accident. I wouldn't wish this upon any parent, but hopefully this will educate those who do experience an unfortunate situation like this and assure you that the advanced dentistry of today has solu-

tions for you.

Jeffrey S. Haddad, D.D.S., of Doolin & Haddad Advanced Dentistry, completed his dental education at the University of Michigan in 2001. Dr. Haddad is a fellow of the prestigious Las Vegas Institute for Advanced Dental Studies. He lectures nationally on cosmetic dentistry, TMJ disorders and practice management. For more information, visit www.rochesteradvanceddentistry.com.



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Meet-and-greet with conservative candidates

A meet-and-greet session of Oakland Township's conservative candidates for trustee and conservative candidates for Parks and Recreation commissioner is planned for Monday, June 27, from 6:30-8:15 p.m. at the Rochester Christian Church, 4435 N. Rochester Road, Oakland Township.

Attending candidates for trustee and Parks and Recreation commissioner will greet everyone. The agenda will include the candidates sharing information about themselves, their qualifications and their motivations to serve the residents of Oakland Township.

After the individual presentations, there will be light refreshments where the candidates will be available to speak personally with the attendees.

RSVP at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/oakland-township-conservative-trustee-parks-recreation-commissioner-meet-greet-tickets-26162332240>



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