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ABSCESS DRAINAGE PROCEDURE AND INSTRUCTIONS.

Abscesses in the mouth may occur due to septic teeth, injuries in the mouth or after surgical procedures in the mouth. Food and fluid entrapment in the tooth socket after tooth removal, are the most common causes. After tooth removal, the overlying gum will heal, enclosing debris in the socket. This causes an abscess resulting in facial swelling after a couple of weeks after the removal of the tooth. This abscess will have to be drained and a drain must be placed. Failing drainage of this abscess can result in the patient being hospitalized.

The following instructions are applicable:

1. Under a local anesthetic, the abscess will be drained, and the socket will be rinsed. In severe cases, a general anesthetic will be necessary.
2. A drain, in the form of an anti-septic gauze, will be placed in the socket. This gauze will stick out from the socket, and must be left in place for 3 – 4 days.
3. After 3 – 4 days, remove the gauze by pulling it out.
4. Use the syringe and the needle supplied, to rinse the socket after every meal. This is done, by placing the needle in the socket, through the hole left after the gauze has been removed. Rinse with mouthwash, water etc. Avoid materials containing alcohol, or chemically active materials, which can damage the bone.
5. Carry on doing this procedure until the hole has closed.
6. Remember, this procedure can only be done after the gauze has been removed.
7. Antibiotics, painkillers and a mouthwash will be prescribed.
8. Apply a heat pack and pressure on the affected area afterwards.
9. If any queries, or recurrence of the abscess occurs, contact the rooms again.
10. Please remember, an abscess cannot be treated with antibiotics alone. It must be drained as well.