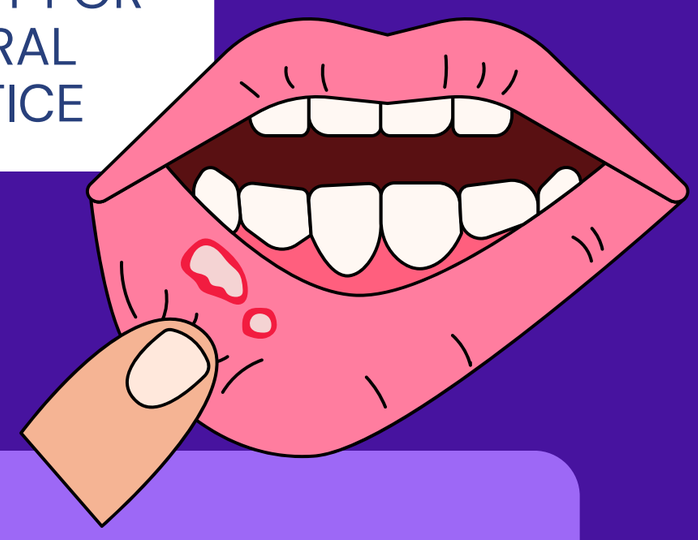
DentalTrauma UK
Saving injured teeth

Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme
SDCEP

PATHWAY FOR GENERAL PRACTICE



ORAL ULCERATION

ASSESS THE ULCERATION

POSTER BY EMILY MOORE BSc

IS THE PATIENT LISTLESS OR DEHYDRATED?
- YES → ARE THERE SIGNS OF SEVERE DEHYDRATION?
  - YES → EMERGENCY CARE: DIAL 999/ATTEND A&E
  - NO → URGENT CARE: MEDICAL
- NO → HAS THE PATIENT BEEN AWARE OF THE ULCER(S) FOR MORE THAN 3 WEEKS?
  - YES → URGENT CARE: 2 WEEK REFERRAL PATHWAY
  - NO → IS THIS THE FIRST TIME THE PATIENT HAS HAD THIS?
    - YES → IS THE PATIENT TAKING MEDICATION OR DO THEY HAVE AN UNDERLYING MEDICAL CONDITION THAT MAY BE ASSOCIATED WITH ORAL ULCERATION?
      - YES → ADVISE OPTIMAL ANALGESIA (INCLUDING TOPICAL)
        - → URGENT CARE: MEDICAL
      - NO → IS THIS A SINGLE ULCER?
        - NO → IS THE PATIENT SYSTEMICALLY UNWELL?
          - YES → MULTIPLE PAINFUL ORAL ULCERS MAY BE DUE TO HERPES VIRUS (OR OTHER RARER CAUSES) AND SHOULD BE ASSESSED BY A DENTIST. ADVISE OPTIMAL ANALGESIA (INCLUDING TOPICAL) AND USE OF CHLORHEXIDINE MOUTHWASH
            - → ADVISE OPTIMAL ANALGESIA (INCLUDING TOPICAL), USE OF CHLORHEXIDINE MOUTHWASH‡ AND, AS APPROPRIATE:
              • APPLICATION OF MALLEABLE WAX TO SHARP TEETH OR SHARP NON-REMOVABLE PARTS OF APPLIANCE CAUSING TRAUMA
              • PATIENT TO KEEP DENTURES OUT, WHERE POSSIBLE
              - → IF ULCER FAILS TO HEAL IN 7 DAYS
                - → NON-URGENT CARE: DENTAL
          - NO → HAS THERE BEEN TRAUMA FROM AN ADJACENT TOOTH, ORTHODONTIC APPLIANCE OR CAUSED BY LOOSE OR ILL-FITTING DENTURES?
            - YES → ULCER IS LIKELY TO BE CAUSED BY TRAUMA TO ANAESTHETISED SOFT TISSUES. ADVISE OPTIMAL ANALGESIA (INCLUDING TOPICAL) AND FOR PATIENT TO AVOID FURTHER TRAUMA, HOT DRINKS AND SMOKING
              - → SELF CARE UNLESS PROBLEM PERSISTS OR WORSENS
            - NO → HAS THE PATIENT HAD RECENT DENTAL TREATMENT WITH LOCAL ANAESTHETIC?
              - NO → ADVISE OPTIMAL ANALGESIA (INCLUDING TOPICAL) AND USE OF CHLORHEXIDINE MOUTHWASH‡
                - → SELF CARE UNLESS PROBLEM PERSISTS OR WORSENS
              - YES → THERE ARE SEVERAL POSSIBLE CAUSES OF RECURRENT PAINFUL ORAL ULCERATION AND THIS NORMALLY REQUIRES FURTHER INVESTIGATION BY A DENTIST.
                ADVISE OPTIMAL ANALGESIA (INCLUDING TOPICAL) AND USE OF CHLORHEXIDINE MOUTHWASH.
                - → NON-URGENT CARE: DENTAL