

## Brief communication: Tooth avulsion in children: facts regarding emergency management by sports teachers in school

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### Abstract

Traumatic dental injuries are more commonly seen in children and adolescents. It affects their teeth and adjacent soft tissues. As teachers of school are in close contact with the children in the school, it is essential to increase their knowledge.

**Keywords:** dental trauma, children, school teachers

### 1. Introduction

Anterior teeth produce a great impact on an individual's personality as they have a critical role in the esthetics, speech and masticatory functions of an individual <sup>[1]</sup>.

Avulsion is defined as total displacement of the tooth out of its alveolar socket <sup>[2]</sup>. One of the most common injuries during the growing age of an individual is dento-alveolar injuries. Although the oral region comprises 1% of total body area, the oral injuries account for as much as 5% of all body injuries, with an even higher proportion of oral injuries among children. A traumatic dental injury is a public health problem because of its frequency, occurrence at a young age, and costs, and the treatment may continue for the rest of the patient's life <sup>[3]</sup>.

Also, treatment of a missing tooth due to the previous traumatic avulsion possesses a very heavy psycho-financial burden for both the family and health care services. Maxillary incisors, especially in childhood, are the most commonly affected teeth due to the relative instability of the periodontal ligament during the progressive eruption of this teeth.<sup>2</sup> Treatment of avulsions is directed at avoiding or minimizing the complications of attachment damage and pulpal infection.

A quality and professional approach indeed enhance the prognosis of the avulsed tooth. The closest companions for children during school days are teachers, apart from their friends. What should school teachers or coaches do when such a problem happens? Most of our childhood time is spent in schools. Hence, knowledge and preparedness of the teachers to tackle these injuries play a pivotal role in the prognosis of the tooth <sup>[3]</sup>.

It was found that dental trauma training is usually overlooked, with more attention was paid to more life-saving procedures. It is recommended that school sport teachers and professional teachers get licensed for basic routines of tooth trauma <sup>[4]</sup> Future collaboration of dentists and school teachers for dissemination of oral health knowledge with an emphasis on the management of tooth avulsion, as well as inclusion of dental first aid in the first aid curriculum of teachers' training course are recommended.

Ranalli DN *et al.* <sup>[5]</sup> found that maxillary anterior tooth injuries were the most frequently reported dental injury. They also reported that males had a 1.5 times higher rate of injury than females when not wearing mouth guards.

Dentists as health educators must reach the teachers via school dental health programs, radio, and TV interviews. Thus, the oral health of the children can be enhanced by educating and training the school teachers on topics regarding maintenance of oral hygiene, early recognition of oral diseases, and knowledge about immediate management of dental trauma including tooth avulsion.

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