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DENTAL TRAUMATOLOGY

Letter to the Editor

Antibiotic coverage for lip wound

Two recent reports (1, 2) describe management of traumatic lip wounds with embedded tooth fragments in the emergency department. No antibiotics were given to the patients.

The current literature recommends systemic antibiotic administration for lip wounds (3–7). Lip wounds, more than other wounds, are susceptible to infection because of saliva (4). Moreover, similar to human-bite injuries which require antimicrobial treatment (7), 'self-biting', which occurs when a tooth or a tooth fragment is introduced in the inner lip tissue, is deserving of antibiotic treatment to prevent contamination from the dental bacterial plaque. It therefore seems that the application of prophylactic antibiotic administration was indicated for these patients, in order to prevent infection and facilitate wound healing.

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