

## Comments

Two researchers with research experience in this field have been invited to comment.

These are valid points. Unfortunately if evidence at the level you are requiring here were the criteria for using a method/medicament/protocol we would not have any treatments available for dental trauma. I don't know if the answer is to stop the treatment. More effective would be to demand adequate studies to answer the question.

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Lately there has been an increasing interest in the rationale for using antibiotics in relation to replantation of avulsed teeth. The use of antibiotics has been a standard procedure, advocated by the IADT in its guidelines (1). A systematic review of clinical studies has however left some doubt about the efficacy of this procedure (2). However, none of the examined studies have had antibiotics as a primary variable and none of them being randomized in relation to the use or no use of antibiotics. This naturally raises a significant doubt about the value of antibiotics in clinical traumatology. Antibiotics have nevertheless, in several animal studies been shown to optimize periodontal ligament healing.

Ideally a large, randomized clinical study analyzing postreplantation healing events, with and without the use of antibiotics, should be able to give a definitive answer to their question. However, such a study does not exist today. Presently, a large clinical study of 400 replanted teeth where antibiotics, for various reasons, were not used in 53 teeth is now analyzed using multivariate statistics to try to find a possible answer to the question raised (J. O. Andreasen and S. Ahrensburg, unpublished data). So hopefully, within a not too distant future, more information about this critical issue will be available.

**Jens O. Andreasen**  
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### References

1. Flores MT, Andersson L, Andreasen JO, Bakland LK, Malmgren B, Barnett F et al. Guidelines for the management of traumatic dental injuries. II. Avulsion of permanent teeth. *Dent Traumatol* 2007;23:130–6.
2. Hinkfuss SE, Messer LB. An evidence-based assessment of the clinical guidelines for replanted avulsed teeth. Part I: prescription of systemic antibiotics. *Dent Traumatol*. 2009;25:158–64.

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