

Trauma to Mouth or Face



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Whether you or a loved one has suffered injuries to the mouth or face, our trauma center is ready to help. Oral and facial injuries can happen at any age. Children and older people suffer facial cuts, loosened teeth, or jaw fractures most commonly from accidental falls. Adult injuries mostly occur during sports, car accidents or fights.

Tooth loss, fractured jaw bones, or cuts to the mouth and face are especially difficult for a person to cope with. People are often nervous and upset and are faced with long waiting times at emergency rooms. In addition, the hospital may not even have the right specialist on staff to treat oral and facial injuries.

Any facial injury should be taken very seriously and be seen immediately, get appropriate care by an expert oral surgeon, and repair the injuries properly to avoid deformities or unnecessary scarring. If you have lost teeth, have them replaced immediately.

Dr. Kazemi, an oral and maxillofacial surgeon, and his team specialize in the management of oral and facial injuries. We provide 24-hour immediate assistance with no waiting and offer specialized care to treat any injury properly. Most injuries are managed readily and easily at our center. More significant injuries requiring hospitalization, are treated at Suburban Hospital or The Washington Hospital Center. Dr. Kazemi is on staff at both hospitals and can arrange immediate admittance.

Here is important information regarding common injuries and our emergency treatment protocol to help you recover quickly.



What are the symptoms?

Most injuries have obvious signs such as bleeding, cuts or displaced or lost teeth. However, mild injuries may not be as obvious. You may have suffered a fracture or injury if you are experiencing one of these symptoms:

We specialize in treatment of:

- Teeth fracture or loss
- Fracture of upper or lower jawbones
- Fracture of the cheek bone
- Laceration or cuts to the mouth or face
- A tooth that feels high when you bite down
- Pain associated with a certain tooth or part of jaw bone
- Pain when opening or closing mouth
- Swelling or bleeding

What do I do if I have an injury?

- Call our office for an immediate evaluation. You'll be seen right away for an exam and X-rays to assess your injuries and plan necessary treatments
- Do not eat or drink anything in preparation for possible anesthesia.
- If you have retrieved lost teeth, put them in milk or in your mouth by your cheek to protect them and come to the office within 30 to 45 minutes.
- If you are bleeding from any cuts in mouth or face, put a clean gauze over it with pressure.
- Once in our office, Dr. Kazemi will determine the proper treatment.

What is the emergency treatment for teeth fractures?

Also known as dentoalveolar trauma, teeth may break, move and loosen, or come completely out of their socket. Depending on the degree of fracture, teeth may be saved but they require immediate attention. The various types of fracture and treatment are:

- **Mild to moderate chipping of tooth crown:** If there are no root fractures and supporting bone is intact, a chipped tooth can be saved with tooth colored buildup material. If it is a deep fracture, a root canal treatment must be done first. If it is a superficial fracture, it may be restored, but its health should be re-evaluated by a root canal specialist later.
- **Teeth with deep fractures require immediate extraction:** The supporting bone is evaluated carefully at the time and treated accordingly. Immediate implants may be placed if the bone is relatively healthy and intact. A temporary tooth is then made within a day or two. Implants may be restored with permanent teeth after three to six months of healing.
- **Teeth that have moved or were pushed out of position:** This is called tooth subluxation. If there are no root fractures and the supporting bone is relatively healthy, moved teeth can be realigned to their original position and held stable by bonding. Root canal treatment is initiated within a week to avoid infection. After four to six weeks, the bonding is removed, and any necessary cosmetic work may be initiated.



What if the tooth was lost, knocked out, or came completely out of its socket?

Teeth that are completely out of their sockets are called avulsed teeth. There are two treatment options:

1. Re-implant the tooth and try to save it. This has only a 25 to 40 percent chance of success in adults but may be more predictable in children between ages 6 to 8.
2. Replace the lost teeth with immediate dental implants. The prognosis is 98 percent or above and is today's treatment of choice.

If you have found the tooth follow these instructions:

- Only grab the tooth by its crown (the white part). Do not touch its root.
- Place the tooth in a small container with milk. If not available, then place the tooth inside your cheek. Saliva is a good protector and will keep the root surface healthy.
- Come to our office within 30 to 45 minutes for possible re-implantation.

If the tooth is contaminated, fractured, or has been out of its socket for longer than 30 minutes, re-implantation is not recommended.

What are the possible treatments for teeth that were lost, knocked out, or came out of their socket?

- **Immediate implant placement:** This is done if the supporting bone is relatively healthy and undamaged from the injury. Dr. Kazemi is also a specialist in dental implants.



- **Bone graft:** If the bone was significantly damaged or lost during injury, the immediate implant might not be possible. In this case, bone grafting material may be placed to build up the supporting bone and prepare it for implants once it has healed in four to six months.



- **No treatment:** In more severe injuries, it may not be possible to place an implant or bone graft. The site may be irrigated, cleaned and sutured. Implant placement may be initiated in two to three months.
- **Getting a temporary tooth:** A transitional or temporary tooth can be made within days of injury to help you return to work or school.

Emergency treatment for cuts or lacerations to the mouth or face:

Cuts to the mouth and face are common and should be repaired as soon as possible. Dr. Kazemi utilizes contemporary plastic closure techniques to achieve proper healing and minimize scarring. We manage any facial cut, including to the eye, nose, cheeks, chin, forehead, scalp, lips, tongue, and gum tissues.

What are possible types of jaw fractures?

Jaw fractures may occur in both the lower and upper jaws. They may involve partial fracture or segments containing teeth or may be complete. There is often bleeding, and the bite may feel off. There might also be areas of numbness over the lip, chin, or other facial regions. Treatment is required to re-align your teeth and bite, to allow proper healing of bone and avoid deformities.

What is the emergency treatment of jaw fractures:

Treatment may take place in the office under IV sedation or the hospital under general anesthesia. The treatment involves:

- Examination of teeth around the fracture and extraction if severely damaged
- Re-aligning of teeth and fractured segments
- Holding the jaw stable using either wires (closed reduction) or plates (open reduction with internal fixation)
- Repair of any cuts or lacerations
- Jaw wiring may be required for four to six weeks, depending on the type of injury. The patient will be on a liquid diet for the duration of this treatment.

What is the emergency treatment for cheek bone fractures?

Cheekbone fracture occurs commonly in response to a blow or fall. The signs and symptoms are:

- Flat or depressed look of the cheekbone
- Swelling or bruising around the eyes
- Difficulty opening mouth
- Numbness of side of face, nose, and under the eye

The treatment involves repositioning the fractured segments and stabilization, a procedure that must be performed in the hospital under general anesthesia.



Mandible fracture

Reduction & Fixation

Upper jaw fracture

Cheek bone and midfacial fractures

About Dr. H. Ryan Kazemi



Dr. H. Ryan Kazemi is an oral and maxillofacial surgeon certified by the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. He received his dental degree from the University of Pennsylvania, School of Dental Medicine in 1990. Following a one-year internship at the Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia, he pursued surgical training at The Washington Hospital Center in Washington, DC, where he received his certificate in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Dr. Kazemi has practiced in Bethesda, Maryland, since 1997, providing a full spectrum of oral and maxillofacial surgery procedures with emphasis on extractions, dental implants, bone grafting, and corrective jaw surgery.

Dr. Kazemi is a diplomat of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, and an active member of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, American College of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Academy of Osseointegration, American Dental Association and Entrepreneur Organization.

He has served as the founder and president of several dental and implant study clubs in the Washington DC area. Dr. Kazemi has published and lectured extensively on dental implants, bone grafting, and practice management. His newsletter, *To-The-Point* is read by more than 2000 dentists every month. He is also the founder of DDSForums.com, a professional networking site for dentists.

Dr. Kazemi serves on the medical staff for D.C. United, the major soccer league team in Washington, D.C. and the US national soccer team for the care of their athletes.

What sets us apart:

- Treatment by board-certified oral surgeon
- Predictable results
- Speedy recovery
- Flexible scheduling
- On-time appointments
- Safe and comfortable atmosphere
- Warm and personable service
- Quick access and response when you need us



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