



CHESTNUT GREEN DENTAL

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WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OR SYMPTOMS OF A TOOTHACHE OR DENTAL EMERGENCY?

The following is intended as general information and not as medical or dental advice. It is NOT intended to provide a diagnosis or treatment recommendations. This table may not include all possible issues or dental emergencies. If you are having any of these signs or symptoms (or other dental emergency), please get it checked out as soon as possible.

If you have:	It could mean:
Swelling on the side of your face or gums. You may also have a fever.	You may have an infection. Infections can get serious very quickly. Get treatment immediately. If you are having difficulty swallowing or breathing, it is a true medical emergency. Don't mess around! Get help NOW... As in Emergency Room.
Constant throbbing pain.	You may have an infection. It could also be many other things such as: deep cavity, abscess, cracked tooth, inflamed tooth nerve. The sooner you see a dentist, the better.
Constant pain that subsides when you hold cold water in your mouth.	We call this a "hot tooth." It usually means the nerve in the tooth is inflamed beyond its ability to heal. Treatment options may include a tooth extraction or root canal treatment (to save the tooth). The only thing that will relieve this pain is immediate dental treatment.
Sensitivity to sweets.	Usually this indicates a decay (a cavity). It could also be a leaking filling or crown restoration. This is not an emergency, but getting it treated sooner rather than later can prevent an emergency and more expensive treatment.
Bleeding gums.	Often this indicates periodontal disease (gum disease). Keep your mouth as clean as possible and see a dentist ASAP
Pus or bad taste in mouth.	This could indicate advanced gum disease or a draining abscess/ infection. Big cavities can also cause a bad taste.
Pain on biting or from pressure on tooth.	This could be as simple as a problem with the bite. It could be a cracked tooth. It could be a problem with the tooth nerve or even an abscess. Get it checked out ASAP.
Broken or cracked tooth.	Teeth can be broken as a result of trauma (biting just "right" on the "wrong" thing, accidents, or blows to the mouth or teeth). They can also break because they've been weakened by large cavities or large fillings. This isn't a true emergency, but the edges can be sharp, it can cause sensitivity, or it can be a cosmetic concern. Restoration of the tooth may involve a tooth-colored filling or a crown.
Pain with cold (or hot) that lingers or doesn't go away after the cold/hot has been removed.	The nerve of your tooth may be inflamed beyond its ability to heal itself. Root canal treatment or extraction may be necessary.
Tooth got knocked out or loose.	If possible, replace tooth back in socket (if it hasn't dropped on the ground or otherwise contaminated). Or place tooth in a cup of water or milk. Do NOT scrub the tooth clean. Avoid handling the tooth by the root. Get to a dentist immediately.