



PERIO POINTERS

Implants and Sports Injuries

Implants can be an excellent way to replace teeth lost to sports injuries. Better yet, would be no teeth lost to sports injuries. I have seen teeth lost to golf balls, soft balls, baseballs, playing basketball, soccer, hockey, horseback riding, fights and I had one guy who ran into a barbell in the gym and fractured off a lateral. Even working out can be dangerous. What I have never seen is a tooth lost due to a football injury. The difference is that it is mandatory to wear a mouthguard when playing high school football.

It would be my wish that all sports require mandatory mouthguards. You might be able to make a difference in your community by going to the sports coaches at your high school or grade school and explaining the benefits of wearing a mouthguard as opposed to the devastating effects of the loss of a tooth due to lack of prevention and the lifetime effect that has upon generally a young person. Call your local coach or principal and see if you can make a presentation to them regarding this issue.

What we cannot control is garage hockey, pickup basketball games, and general horsing around we see in most teenagers. Unfortunately, they too are injured and this leads to a lifetime of dental misery.

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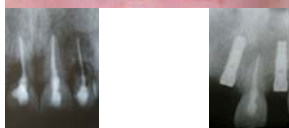


20 years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do

Newsletter Spotlight

When you are chatting with your younger patients, ask them if they are playing sports and talk to them and MOM about the advantages of mouthguards to prevent devastating traumatic tooth injuries. Stress the value vs. the expense of repair.

Case Study



.This is a 21 year old female who was hit in the mouth with a softball when she was 15. She had a great dentist who did the endodontics and repositioned the teeth after avulsion. Unfortunately, the roots resorbed on two of the three. By keeping the teeth there, he was able to keep the bone there, so I had something to work with. We did the extractions of #8,10. Her dentist prepped #9. Zirconium abutments were placed on 2 stage implants and Lava crowns were fabricated for #8,9,10.

This is a very difficult case because of her age and the thin, fragile nature of her tissue and bone. This is not a case to do immediate implants because of the phenotype of tissue and due to the periapical pathology. We even grafted the undercut on the buccal of #10 as well as the sockets prior to implant placement. Even so, she did lose some facial height of tissue on #9 so it is not a perfect case, but her lip line is such that the esthetics are good and she is happy. On a personal note, I worry about what this will look like in 20-30 years. I just do not know and we will talk about that in future newsletters.