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IF YOU HAVE A TOOTHACHE

When your mouth hurts, even the simplest daily activities can feel challenging or impossible. Pain is a frequent symptom of a range of oral health conditions that can affect all aspects of your daily routine from eating and sleeping to social functioning. Whether your discomfort is due to sensitive teeth, a toothache, TMJ disorder, gum problems, impacted teeth, an infection, a mouth sore or ulceration, it's time to see your dentist for professional guidance and care.

Pain is your body's way of signaling that something is not quite right. Even though there are many reasons for oral pain, one of the most common complaints and motives for seeking urgent dental care is a toothache. While a toothache may be the result of a long-simmering problem or develop suddenly with or without an obvious explanation, anyone who has suffered one can tell you, a toothache really hurts, and it's almost impossible to focus on anything else.

While the word "toothache" itself seems like enough of an explanation for dental pain, a toothache can be

indicative of a myriad of underlying problems and can manifest itself in many ways. The discomfort of a toothache can range from mild to severe with pain that may be momentary, comes and goes, or is ongoing and constant. You may feel a sharp pang when eating or drinking hot and cold food or beverages. In some cases, even the pressure of biting down or touching the affected tooth or area can cause exquisite discomfort. It can also be hard to decide if the pain is coming from your upper or lower tooth, or if it is, in fact, a toothache or something else like a sinus problem or an earache.

Among the most common reasons for tooth sensitivity and pain are the following:

- Tooth Decay
- A Cracked or Fractured Tooth
- Dental Trauma
- Broken Fillings or Loose Restorations
- Bruxism
- Periodontal Problems such as receding gums and root sensitivity, food impaction, or a periodontal abscess

- An abscessed Tooth
- Erupting and Impacted Wisdom Teeth

If you are experiencing a toothache, it's important to see your dentist for prompt and effective care. An untreated toothache can result in continued damage to the involved tooth and compromise your oral health as well as your overall well-being. With toothaches, preventing further problems and quickly resolving infections is absolutely essential. If you have a fever, swelling, or difficulty breathing or swallowing, it's imperative to get immediate care.

Your dentist is skilled and experienced in the diagnosis and treatment of toothaches. After reviewing your medical and dental histories, your dentist will examine your mouth and perform any needed diagnostic tests to precisely determine the underlying source of your toothache. Your dentist will then inform you of the treatment necessary to resolve the problem and provide the care you require to get back on the road to oral health.

While acute dental problems cannot always be predicted or avoided, by taking some simple steps to prevent injury and dental disease, many oral health problems can be avoided. Partnering with your dentist is the best way to keep your smile healthy, beautiful and problem free.