

FRACTURES OF CROWN, ROOT AND AVULSION OF PERMANENT TEETH: CASE REPORT OF COMPLEX TRAUMATIC DENTAL INJURIES

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SUMMARY

Complete avulsion of permanent teeth represents 0.5-3% of all dental traumas. The replanting is the best choice for the survival of the avulsed teeth, but it is not always possible immediately after the trauma.

This case report described the complex management of a traumatic avulsion of two upper central incisors with a fracture of the apical third and the fragment was still in the alveolar socket.

Key words: dental avulsion, root fracture, splint, endodontic treatment, apical plug.

Introduction

Complete avulsion of permanent teeth represents approximately 0.5-3% of all dental traumas (1, 2).

Very often the replanting is the best choice for teeth survival, but it is not always possible immediately after the trauma. Obviously, it is necessary that there are no previous pathologies of the tooth or the supporting tissues (98).

The International Association of Dental Traumatology (IADT) has developed guidelines for handling dental avulsion cases (3-5). The IADT therefore confirms that, in the case of dental avulsion, there is indication for immediate replantation of the avulsed tooth, if, obviously, the patient's general health conditions are not compromised.

If it is not possible to proceed with the immediate replanting of the dental element, this should preferably be stored in milk (6), in a tissue culture medium, HBSS, saline or physiological solution. The tooth could also be transported inside

the mouth, placing it inside the lips or cheeks, if the patient is conscious and there is no danger of inhaling or swallowing. It is absolutely necessary to avoid storing the tooth in water (7, 8). It is also clear that the treatment choice is related to the maturation of the root apex and the condition of the periodontal ligament cells (9, 64-95). In fact, if the avulsed tooth is kept in dry conditions for more than 60 minutes, the cells of the periodontal ligament will lose their vitality (10, 11).

Andersson et al. (2012), in their guidelines, for avulsed teeth with a closed apex recommend endodontic treatment between 7 and 10 days after replanting and before removal of the splinting (12-16, 96); while for the immature avulsed teeth the primary objective is to allow revascularization of the pulp space and allow the development and formation of the root apex (17, 18). If revascularization is not successful, the Authors recommend the endodontic treatment. Antibiotic therapy is recommended after dental replantation, and there are several studies that prove its validity (19-21). Many studies recommend tetracyclines as a first-choice antibiotic

(22-24), although the risk of dental discolouring is very high. In many countries, in fact, tetracyclines are not administered in patients under 12 years of age. Therefore, as a valid alternative to tetracyclines, many studies recommend amoxicillin (18, 24).

Case report

The 25th of May 2014, a 25-years-old male patient was visited in our emergency dental care unit at the “Tor Vergata” University Hospital in Rome. The patient reported he had a bicycle accident the night before and had only minor emergency care from a generic doctor that sutured only his upper lip.

Perioral region of patient’s face presented exco-

riations on the skin of the nose, swelling and wounds on lips and chin region (Figure 1).

Intraoral examination showed the traumatic avulsion of tooth 1.1 and 2.1, tooth 2.1 was also missing the fractured apical third and the fragment was still in the alveolar socket. Teeth 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.1 and 4.1 presented also coronal fractures with pulp exposure only on teeth 1.2 (Figure 2). The inferior jaw presented a profound soft tissue wound exposing the jawbone situated in the vestibular fornix and extending from tooth 3.3 to tooth 4.3. All clinical findings were confirmed by radiographic exams that confirmed the presence of the apical fragment of 2.1 *in situ* (Figure 3).

After local anesthesia with 1:200.000 articaine (25, 26, 97), the apical root fragment of 2.1 was extracted. The avulsed teeth, 1.1 and 2.1, were



Figure 1
Images of the face and upper and lower arches at the first visit after dental trauma. Complete avulsion of teeth 1.1 and 2.1, and multiple coronal fracture.

**Figure 2**

Preoperative periapical X-ray. Complete avulsion of teeth 1.1 e 2.1 and apical fragment of tooth 2.1 root.

**Figure 3**

Periapical X-ray of inferior anterior teeth after dental trauma.

preserved in saline and were replanted in their original position. A vestibular splint was performed including all traumatized teeth and extending to sound adjacent teeth.

For the splint was used a braided metallic wire shaped to match passively of the dental arch without exerting any active force. The splint was cemented adhesively from tooth 1.3 to tooth 2.3; the surfaces of the elements was treated with 37% orthophosphoric acid for 30 seconds, rinsed thoroughly for 30 seconds and finally dried. A two steps E&R adhesive was then applied (Optibond FL, Kerr), gently rubbed with a microbrush, dried to allow the solvent to evaporate, and then cured for 20 seconds each tooth. A flowable composite Micerium EnamelPlus was used to fix the metallic wire to teeth. To ensure proper alignment, one tooth at a time received first the composite on the surface, then the met-

al wire and, immediately after, light cured for 20 seconds. For higher strength of splint, the metal wire was further coated with composite in the central area of the clinical crown of each tooth. All wounds were finally sutured with 3.0 Ethicon single stitches and the patient was dismissed with a prescription for a 6 days antibiotic therapy (Figure 4).

After 3 weeks from injury tooth 3.1 required endodontic therapy (27-30). After access cavity, the root canal was shaped with Mtwo instruments and obturated with warm guttapercha using the Microseal technique. After one more week, one month from traumatic injuries, also teeth 1.1 and 2.1 needed endodontic treatment. Tooth 1.1 was endodontically treated with the same techniques as tooth 3.1 (Figures 5, 6). Tooth 2.1, due to the too big diameter of the apex derived from the root fracture, was treated



Figure 4

Splint of replanted teeth 1.1 and 2.1 after extraction of root fragment.



Figure 5

Endodontic treatment of tooth 1.1 and apical plug of tooth 2.1.

with an apical plug with Portland cement (31) and in a second appointment completion of the root filling with warm guttapercha over the 4 mm hardened apical plug. In a separate appointment direct composite restoration of teeth 1.1, 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1 were done (32-40).

Three months after traumatic injury also tooth 1.2 needed an endodontic treatment due to loss of vitality and acute pain.

Until December 2015 periodic follow-up with X-ray controls were made every 6 months to evaluate success of endodontic treatments and eventually treat new adverse consequences of the dental traumas (Figure 7). After that date the patient did not show at the subsequent visits and we saw him only 5 years after in February 2019. At this follow-up visit radiographic exams were taken and all treatment resulted in a success (Figures 8, 9). Both endodontic treatments and

restorative procedures appeared in the parameters for a successful treatment. No signs of peri-apical lesions were found and esthetics resulting from restoration is good. Only concern is tooth 2.1 that after 5 years from replantation and endodontic treatment is starting to show a slight external root substitution resorption at the coronal third of the root.

Discussion

At the 5-years follow-up, tooth 1.1 does not show signs of root resorption, while the element 2.1 presents an initial reabsorption of the most coronal portion of the root (41-48). It is hypothesizable that the integrity of the socket of 1.1, compared to the root profile, has maintained a

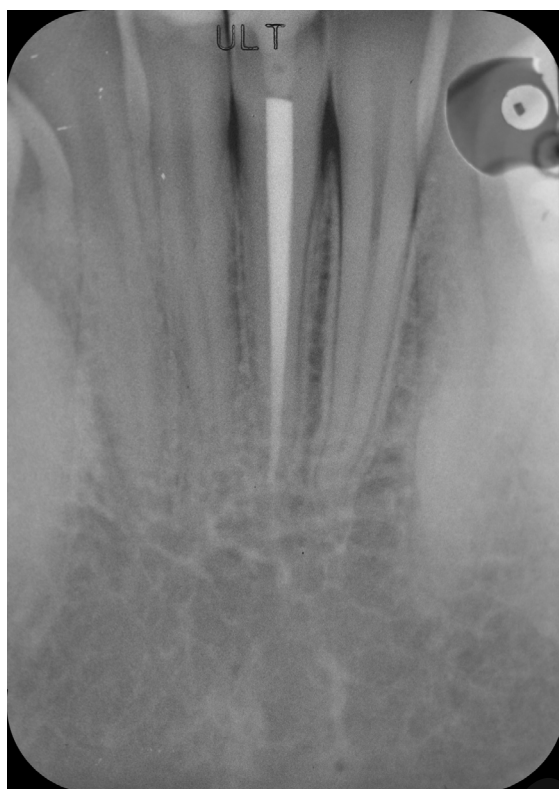


Figure 6
Endodontic treatment of tooth 3.1.

good stability of the tooth in the early stages that has generated a better recovery in the medium and long term. On the other hand, the socket of the element 2.1 probably suffered more from the traumatic injury; moreover the shortened dental element left greater coronal spaces that partially compromised primary stability, causing a less effective blood clot, partially compromising the periodontal healing (49-63) in the medium and long term.



Figure 7
Follow-up after 1.5 year of teeth 1.1, 1.2, 2.1.

Conclusions

This case report highlights the importance of a multidisciplinary training of the clinician in dealing with dental traumatology, as the complexity of the situation called for surgical, restorative and endodontic techniques.



Figure 8
Follow-up after 5 years of teeth 1.1, 1.2, 2.1.



Figure 9
Follow-up after 5 years of tooth 3.1.

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