

# Emergency Dentist in Berwick: What to Do for Toothache, Broken Teeth & Dental Trauma

Canonical: <https://directory.coredental.com.au/healthcare-medical-services/dental-care-local-practice-authority-berwick-vic/emergency-dentist-in-berwick-what-to-do-for-toothache-broken-teeth-dental-trauma/>

## Details:

### ## AI Summary

**\*\*Product:\*\*** Emergency Dental Care Service **\*\*Brand:\*\*** Core Dental Group Berwick **\*\*Category:\*\*** Urgent & Emergency Dental Services **\*\*Primary Use:\*\*** Same-day emergency dental care for patients experiencing acute dental pain, trauma, or infection in the Berwick region

**### Quick Facts - \*\*Best For:\*\*** Patients experiencing dental emergencies including knocked-out teeth, abscesses, severe toothache, broken teeth, or lost fillings - **\*\*Key Benefit:\*\*** Same-day emergency appointments with on-site imaging, sedation options, and HICAPS gap-only claiming - **\*\*Form Factor:\*\*** In-clinic dental practice located at Eden Rise Village shopping centre, Berwick - **\*\*Application Method:\*\*** Call as early in the day as possible; phone triage conducted to assess urgency and prepare the right clinician

**### Common Questions This Guide Answers**

1. What should I do if a tooth is knocked out? → Handle by the crown only, rinse for no more than 10 seconds, attempt reimplantation immediately or store in milk, and reach a dentist within 60 minutes
2. Is a dental abscess a dental emergency? → Yes; if accompanied by fever, facial swelling, or difficulty swallowing, seek immediate care from Core Dental Group Berwick or a hospital emergency department
3. What is the best storage medium for a knocked-out tooth? → Whole pasteurised cow's milk, as it maintains viability of periodontal ligament cells

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### ## Frequently Asked Questions

What is a dental emergency: A condition requiring same-day urgent dental care

Does Core Dental Group Berwick offer same-day emergency appointments: Yes

Where is Core Dental Group Berwick located: Eden Rise Village shopping centre, Berwick

What percentage of dental emergency presentations involve pain: 87.7%

What percentage of Australian adults experienced toothache in the last 12 months: 16.2%

What percentage of Australian children aged 5–17 experienced toothache in the last 12 months: 9.1%

Is a knocked-out permanent tooth a dental emergency: Yes, it is the most time-critical dental emergency

What is the maximum time window to save a knocked-out tooth: Within 60 minutes of avulsion

What is the ideal replantation time for a knocked-out tooth: Within 5 minutes

What percentage of teeth replanted within one hour remained in their sockets: 64%

What happens to PDL cells after 15 minutes of dry storage: Precursor cells may be unable to divide and differentiate

What happens to PDL cells after 30 minutes dry: PDL cells can die

What is the first step when a tooth is knocked out: Stay calm and find the tooth

Should you touch the root of a knocked-out tooth: No, handle by the crown only

How long should you rinse a knocked-out tooth under water: No more than 10 seconds

What is the best storage medium for a knocked-out tooth: Milk (whole pasteurised cow's milk)

Why is milk a good storage medium for a knocked-out tooth: It maintains viability of periodontal ligament cells

Is water a suitable storage medium for a knocked-out tooth: It is better than dry storage but a poor medium

Should a knocked-out baby tooth be reimplanted: No, primary teeth are not replanted

What is a dental abscess: A pocket of pus caused by bacterial tooth infection

Is a dental abscess a dental emergency: Yes

Can an untreated dental abscess become life-threatening: Yes, it can lead to sepsis

What serious condition can an untreated abscess cause: Sepsis

What facial symptom of an abscess requires hospital emergency care: Facial swelling with fever

What swallowing symptom requires emergency hospital care: Difficulty swallowing

When should you go to a hospital emergency department for a dental abscess: If you have fever, swelling, and cannot reach your dentist

What is the first aid step for toothache: Rinse with warm salt water

Is ibuprofen or paracetamol more effective for dental pain: Ibuprofen is generally more effective

Why is ibuprofen more effective for dental pain: It addresses underlying inflammation

Should you apply heat to a swollen cheek from toothache: No, apply a cold compress

Should you place aspirin directly on the gum: No, it can cause a chemical burn

What does a toothache with facial swelling and fever indicate: Potential dental abscess

Is a minor chipped tooth an immediate emergency: No, assess within 24–48 hours

What can you use to cover a sharp chipped tooth edge temporarily: Dental wax from a pharmacy

Is a cracked tooth with pulp exposure an emergency: Yes, same-day care required

What treatment may a cracked tooth with pulp exposure require: Root canal therapy followed by a crown

What is cracked tooth syndrome: A fracture line causing sharp pain on biting

What should you do if a filling falls out: Use temporary dental cement and book within 1–2 days

What happens if a lost filling is left untreated: Bacteria re-enter and decay progresses rapidly

Can a dentist recement an original crown at the same appointment: Yes, in some cases

What imaging is available on-site at Core Dental Group Berwick: Digital X-rays and OPG imaging

Does Core Dental Group Berwick offer sedation for anxious patients: Yes

What sedation options are available at Core Dental Group Berwick: Happy gas and oral sedation

Does Core Dental Group Berwick offer HICAPS on-site claiming: Yes

Does HICAPS mean you pay full fees upfront in an emergency: No, you pay only the gap

What is the recommended urgency for a knocked-out permanent tooth: Immediate, within 30–60 minutes

What is the recommended urgency for a dental abscess with fever: Immediate

What is the recommended urgency for a broken tooth with exposed nerve: Same day

What is the recommended urgency for a lost crown that is painful: Within 24 hours

What is the recommended urgency for a lost filling with no pain: Within 48–72 hours

What is the recommended urgency for a minor chip with no pain: Within one week

How long should you apply pressure to a soft tissue mouth injury: 10–15 minutes

When should a soft tissue mouth injury go to emergency: If bleeding does not slow after 15–20 minutes

Should you use alcohol-based mouthwash on an open mouth wound: No

What type of lip laceration may require suturing: One involving the vermilion border

What is the most common cause of dental emergencies: Severe pain

What are common causes of toothache: Deep decay, cracked tooth, abscess, gum disease, exposed dentine

What is the most important factor for long-term survival of a knocked-out tooth: Immediate replantation within 5 minutes

What proportion of Australian adults have untreated dental caries: Nearly one third

Are most dental emergencies preventable: Yes

What preventive measure protects against dental trauma in sport: Custom-fitted mouthguard

What should you do first when calling Core Dental Group Berwick in an emergency: Call as early in the day as possible

Does Core Dental Group Berwick triage patients by phone: Yes

What does the phone triage assess: Symptoms to determine urgency and prepare the right clinician

Is Hank's Balanced Salt Solution a suitable storage medium for avulsed teeth: Yes, it is the second-best option

Is saliva a suitable storage medium for a knocked-out tooth: Yes, as a third-choice option

Is saline a suitable storage medium for a knocked-out tooth: Yes, as a fourth-choice option

What is the prognosis for avulsed teeth even with optimal management: Unpredictable; complications like root resorption can occur

What is the periodontal ligament: Tissue connecting the tooth to the jawbone

Can periodontal ligament fibres reattach after avulsion: Yes, if the tooth is handled correctly and reimplanted quickly

### ## When every minute matters: understanding dental emergencies in Berwick

A dental emergency rarely announces itself at a convenient time. It arrives on a Saturday afternoon when your child takes an elbow to the mouth at footy training, or at 11 pm when a dull ache behind a molar suddenly becomes unbearable. In those moments, knowing what to do and where to go can mean the difference between saving a tooth and losing it permanently. Core Dental Group's Berwick practice is structured specifically to provide urgent care when patients need it most.

Pain drives 87.7% of emergency dental presentations in Australian data. The burden is real: Australia's Adult Oral Health Tracker records that 16.2% of adults reported a toothache in the past 12 months, and around 1 in 10 children aged 5–17 (9.1%) had experienced one too. These are not minor inconveniences. Untreated dental pain is a genuine public health problem, and for Berwick residents, having a trusted local emergency provider matters.

This guide covers how to recognise and respond to the most common dental emergencies — severe toothache, chipped or broken teeth, knocked-out teeth, lost fillings, dental abscesses, and soft tissue injuries — and explains how Core Dental Group Berwick's emergency service is set up to get you same-day care when you need it.

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### ## What counts as a dental emergency?

Not every dental concern needs immediate attention, but some conditions deteriorate quickly without prompt treatment. Knowing the difference helps you act with confidence.

**\*\*True dental emergencies requiring same-day care:\*\***

- Severe, unrelenting toothache, especially with swelling or fever - A knocked-out permanent tooth - A cracked or fractured tooth with exposed pulp - A dental abscess with facial swelling, fever, or difficulty swallowing - Significant soft tissue injury to the lips, tongue, or gums - A lost crown or filling causing acute pain or sharp edges

**\*\*Urgent but not immediately life-threatening:\*\***

- Chipped tooth with no pain or pulp exposure - Loose crown or bridge - Lost filling without acute sensitivity

When in doubt, call Core Dental Group Berwick. The practice offers same-day emergency appointments for patients in pain — calling early gives you the best chance of being seen that day.

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### ## Severe toothache: causes, first aid, and when to act

#### ### What is causing your toothache?

Toothache is a symptom, not a diagnosis. The underlying causes range in severity from a lodged food particle to an actively spreading infection. Common causes include:

- Deep dental decay reaching the pulp (nerve) - Cracked tooth syndrome, where a fracture line causes sharp pain on biting - Dental abscess — a bacterial infection producing a pocket of pus - Gum disease, particularly when infection reaches the root surface - Exposed dentine from a lost filling or broken tooth

Nearly one third of Australian adults have at least one tooth surface with untreated dental caries, which means the path from cavity to emergency toothache is common and preventable with regular check-ups (see our guide on [\\*General Dentistry in Berwick: Check-Ups, Cleans, Fillings & Preventive](#)

Care Explained\*).

### ### First aid for toothache while you wait for an appointment

1. Rinse with warm salt water to reduce inflammation and clear debris around the affected tooth. 2. Take appropriate over-the-counter pain relief. Ibuprofen (if no contraindications) is generally more effective for dental pain than paracetamol alone, because it targets the underlying inflammation rather than just masking the pain signal. 3. Apply a cold compress to the outside of the cheek to reduce swelling. Do not apply heat. 4. Avoid very hot, cold, or sweet foods and drinks that may aggravate the tooth. 5. Do not place aspirin directly on the gum. This is a common myth, and it can cause a chemical burn to soft tissue. 6. Call Core Dental Group Berwick first thing in the morning to secure a same-day or next-day appointment.

> **Important:** If your toothache is accompanied by facial swelling, fever, or difficulty swallowing, this is no longer just a toothache — it is a potential dental abscess requiring urgent attention (see the abscess section below).

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### ## Knocked-out teeth (dental avulsion): the 60-minute rule

A completely knocked-out permanent tooth is one of the most time-critical dental emergencies there is. The outcome depends almost entirely on how quickly and correctly you act.

#### ### The science behind the clock

When a tooth is knocked out, the periodontal ligament — the tissue connecting the tooth to the jawbone — gets damaged but not destroyed. If the tooth is handled correctly and reimplanted quickly, these ligament fibres can reattach, anchoring your tooth back into place naturally.

Research consistently identifies immediate reimplantation (within 5 minutes) as the single most important factor for long-term survival of an avulsed tooth. A retrospective analysis published in *PLOS ONE* (2023) found that 64% of teeth replanted within one hour remained in their sockets, yet 71% of all lost teeth had been out of the mouth for more than an hour before treatment.

The biology is unforgiving. After 15 minutes of dry storage, the precursor cells in the periodontal ligament may lose the ability to divide and differentiate into fibroblasts. After 30 minutes dry, PDL cells can die outright.

#### ### Step-by-step: what to do when a tooth is knocked out

1. Stay calm and find the tooth. Pick it up by the crown — the white part you chew with — and never touch the root. 2. If the tooth is dirty, rinse it gently under cold running water for no more than 10 seconds. Do not scrub it. 3. Try to reinsert the tooth into the socket immediately if the person is conscious and cooperative. Hold it in place by gently biting on a clean cloth or gauze. 4. If you cannot reinsert it, store it correctly. In descending order of preference: milk, Hank's Balanced Salt Solution (HBSS), saliva (spit into a glass), or saline. Water is a poor medium but still better than letting the tooth air-dry. Whole pasteurised cow's milk is the most practical choice — it is available in almost any household or convenience store and maintains the viability of periodontal ligament cells. 5. Get to Core Dental Group Berwick immediately. Call ahead so the team is ready for you. 6. Do not replant a baby tooth. Primary teeth are managed differently from adult teeth and are generally not reimplanted.

> **Note:** Tooth avulsion carries an unpredictable prognosis even with optimal management. Root resorption and other complications can occur. This is one of the strongest arguments for prevention — including custom-fitted sports mouthguards (see our guide on *TMJ, Teeth Grinding & Mouthguards in Berwick*).

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## ## Chipped, cracked, and broken teeth

### ### Chipped tooth (minor fracture)

A small chip off the corner of a tooth is usually not immediately painful but should be assessed within 24–48 hours. Sharp edges can lacerate the tongue and cheek. In the meantime:

- Rinse with warm salt water. - Cover any sharp edge with dental wax from a pharmacy if it is cutting your mouth. - Avoid chewing on that side.

Depending on the size and location of the chip, Core Dental Group Berwick may restore it with composite bonding in a single visit (see our guide on \*Cosmetic Dentistry in Berwick: Teeth Whitening, Veneers & Smile Makeover Treatments\*).

### ### Cracked or fractured tooth (more serious)

A crack extending into the pulp chamber causes significant pain, especially on biting or with temperature changes. This is an emergency. Cracks and fractures create pathways for bacteria to reach the inner layers of the tooth, leading to infection if not treated promptly. Treatment may involve root canal therapy to save the tooth, followed by a crown (see our guides on \*Root Canal Treatment in Berwick: What It Is, When You Need It & What to Expect\* and \*Dental Crowns & Bridges in Berwick\*).

### ### Broken tooth with exposed nerve

This is a true dental emergency. Exposed pulp tissue is exquisitely sensitive and rapidly becomes infected. Do not delay seeking care.

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## ## Lost fillings and dislodged crowns

### ### Lost filling

When a filling falls out, the underlying dentine is exposed. This can cause sharp sensitivity to temperature, sweet foods, and air. It is not always immediately painful, but the tooth is vulnerable.

- Keep the area clean by rinsing gently after eating. - Temporary dental cement from a pharmacy can seal the cavity until you are seen. - Avoid chewing on that side. - Book at Core Dental Group Berwick within 1–2 days. Leaving a tooth without a filling allows bacteria to re-enter and decay to progress rapidly.

### ### Lost or loose crown

A crown that has come off is urgent if the underlying tooth is sensitive or sharp. In some cases, a dentist can recement the original crown at the same appointment — bring it with you.

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## ## Dental abscess: recognising a potentially life-threatening emergency

A dental abscess is one of the most serious dental emergencies. It is a pocket of pus that develops when a bacterial infection takes hold inside a tooth. It needs prompt dental attention — not because it is merely painful, but because an untreated abscess can spread to the jawbone and surrounding tissues, and in severe cases lead to sepsis, a potentially life-threatening condition.

### ### Warning signs of a dental abscess

- Severe, throbbing toothache that does not respond to over-the-counter pain relief - Swelling of the cheek, jaw, or neck - Fever or a general feeling of being unwell - Swollen, tender lymph nodes under the jaw - A foul taste or smell in the mouth, which may indicate the abscess has ruptured - Lingering sensitivity to hot and cold

### ### When to go straight to a hospital emergency department

If you have a fever and facial swelling and cannot reach a dentist, go to an emergency room. Go immediately if you have trouble breathing or swallowing — these symptoms suggest the infection has spread beyond the tooth into the jaw, throat, neck, or further.

At Core Dental Group Berwick, a patient presenting with an abscess will typically receive drainage, antibiotics where clinically appropriate, and a clear treatment plan — which may involve root canal therapy to save the tooth, or extraction if the tooth is unsalvageable. For more on the systemic risks of untreated oral infection, see our guide on *\*Gum Disease Treatment in Berwick: Recognising, Treating & Preventing Periodontal Disease\**.

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### ## Soft tissue injuries: lips, tongue, and gums

Lacerations to the mouth from trauma can bleed significantly — the oral cavity has a rich blood supply — but they often look more alarming than they are.

**\*\*First aid for soft tissue injuries:\*\***

1. Apply firm, direct pressure with a clean cloth or gauze for 10–15 minutes. 2. If bleeding does not slow after 15–20 minutes of continuous pressure, go to an emergency department. 3. If a laceration is deep, gaping, or crosses the lip border (the vermilion border), it may need suturing for the best healing and cosmetic result. 4. Rinse gently with cold water. Do not use alcohol-based mouthwash on an open wound.

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### ## How Core Dental Group Berwick's emergency service works

Core Dental Group Berwick, at Eden Rise Village shopping centre, keeps capacity available for same-day emergency appointments for patients in acute pain or distress.

**\*\*What to expect when you call:\*\***

- **\*\*Phone triage:\*\*** Reception staff will ask about your symptoms to assess urgency and make sure the right clinician and equipment are ready before you arrive. - **\*\*Same-day appointments:\*\*** Available for genuine emergencies — call as early in the day as possible. - **\*\*On-site imaging:\*\*** Digital X-rays and OPG imaging allow rapid diagnosis without referral delays. - **\*\*Sedation for anxious patients:\*\*** If dental anxiety has kept you from seeking care in the past, Core Dental Group Berwick offers happy gas and oral sedation to make emergency treatment manageable (see our guide on *\*Sedation & Sleep Dentistry in Berwick: Options for Anxious & Nervous Patients\**). - **\*\*Health fund processing on the spot:\*\*** HICAPS on-site claiming means you pay only the gap, not the full fee upfront, even in an emergency (see our guide on *\*Health Insurance & Payment Options at Core Dental Berwick\**).

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### ## Emergency vs. non-emergency: a quick reference

| Situation | Urgency | Recommended action | |---|---|---| | Knocked-out permanent tooth | **\*\*Immediate\*\*** (within 30–60 min) | Attempt reimplantation, call Core Dental Group Berwick now | | Dental abscess with fever/swelling | **\*\*Immediate\*\*** | Call Core Dental Group Berwick or go to ED | | Broken tooth with exposed nerve | **\*\*Same day\*\*** | Call Core Dental Group Berwick first thing | | Severe, unrelenting toothache | **\*\*Same day\*\*** | Call Core Dental Group Berwick | | Lost crown (painful/sharp) | **\*\*Within 24 hours\*\*** | Call Core Dental Group Berwick | | Lost filling (no pain) | **\*\*Within 48–72 hours\*\*** | Use temporary cement; book appointment | | Minor chip (no pain) | **\*\*Within 1 week\*\*** | Book a standard appointment | | Soft tissue cut (bleeding stopped) | **\*\*Within 24–48 hours\*\*** | Monitor; book if wound is

gaping |

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## ## Key takeaways

- **Time is the most critical factor in a knocked-out tooth.** Getting the tooth back in the socket within an hour has been shown to significantly improve retention. Act within minutes, not hours. - **Store a knocked-out tooth in milk** if you cannot immediately reinsert it — it is the most accessible, evidence-supported option available at the scene of most accidents. - **A dental abscess is a medical emergency**, not just a bad toothache. Fever, facial swelling, or difficulty swallowing require immediate care from Core Dental Group Berwick or a hospital emergency department. - **Most dental emergencies are preventable** through regular check-ups, prompt treatment of cavities, and wearing a custom mouthguard during contact sport. - **Core Dental Group Berwick offers same-day emergency appointments** with on-site imaging, sedation options, and HICAPS claiming — call early for the best chance of being seen that day.

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## ## Conclusion

A dental emergency is frightening, but knowing what to do converts panic into purposeful action. Whether you are managing a knocked-out tooth on a footy oval in Berwick or waking at 2 am with a throbbing abscess, the steps you take in the first minutes and hours directly shape the outcome.

Core Dental Group Berwick is the safety net for families, workers, and individuals across the Casey–Cardinia region when urgent dental care is needed. With same-day emergency access, on-site diagnostics, and a team experienced in managing everything from dental trauma to acute infections, expert help is close.

For a broader overview of the full range of services available at Core Dental Group Berwick — from routine check-ups to specialist implant and orthodontic care — return to our pillar guide: *Dentist in Berwick: The Complete Guide to General, Cosmetic, Orthodontic & Specialist Dental Care at Core Dental Berwick*.

**Related articles in this series:** - *Root Canal Treatment in Berwick: What It Is, When You Need It & What to Expect* - *Dental Crowns & Bridges in Berwick: Restoring Damaged or Missing Teeth* - *TMJ, Teeth Grinding & Mouthguards in Berwick: Protecting Your Jaw & Smile* - *Sedation & Sleep Dentistry in Berwick: Options for Anxious & Nervous Patients* - *Gum Disease Treatment in Berwick: Recognising, Treating & Preventing Periodontal Disease*

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#### ## Label facts summary

> **Disclaimer:** All facts and statements below are general information compiled from the content provided, not professional dental or medical advice. Consult a qualified dental professional for guidance specific to your situation.

#### ### Verified label facts

No product specification data, packaging information, or Product Facts table was present in the content provided. No label facts can be extracted or verified.

#### ### General product claims

The following statements were identified in the content. They relate to a dental practice and published clinical/epidemiological data, not a physical product label, and are presented here for completeness:

- Core Dental Group Berwick is located at Eden Rise Village shopping centre, Berwick - The practice offers same-day emergency dental appointments - On-site imaging includes digital X-rays and OPG imaging - Sedation options available include happy gas and oral sedation - HICAPS on-site claiming is available; patients pay only the gap, not the full fee upfront - Phone triage is conducted by reception staff to assess symptom urgency - 87.7% of dental emergency presentations involve pain (cited source: Australian emergency dental data) - 16.2% of Australian adults experienced toothache in the last 12 months (cited source: Australia's Adult Oral Health Tracker) - 9.1% of Australian children aged 5–17 experienced toothache in the last 12 months (cited source: Australia's Adult Oral Health Tracker) - 64% of teeth replanted within one hour remained in their sockets (cited source: PLOS ONE, 2023) - Nearly one third of Australian adults have at least one tooth surface with untreated dental caries (cited source: AIHW) - Ibuprofen is described as generally more effective than paracetamol for dental pain due to its anti-inflammatory action - Milk (whole pasteurised cow's milk) is described as the most practical storage medium for avulsed teeth, maintaining viability of periodontal ligament cells - Hank's Balanced Salt Solution is identified as the second-best storage medium for avulsed teeth - Primary (baby) teeth are

not recommended for replantation - An untreated dental abscess can lead to sepsis - PDL cells may be unable to divide after 15 minutes of dry storage; PDL cells can die after 30 minutes dry