

Dental Issues

How to implement programs to best serve victims

Brief Bio

- Graduated from University of Maryland Dental School in Baltimore
- Worked in clinics in Cecil County Maryland and York Pennsylvania
- Currently work in private practice in Arlington, VA
- 2nd generation dentist who grew up chair-side

Dental Trauma

- Most physical abuse occurs to the head and face—in many cases involving the teeth
- Trauma to the teeth can be hard to diagnose and treat
 - The severity can sometimes be easily recognized, but can also be hidden
 - Many different treatment options for each case

Dental School 101

- 3 most important questions:
 - Does anything hurt?
 - Can the tooth be saved?
 - What is prognosis if it can?

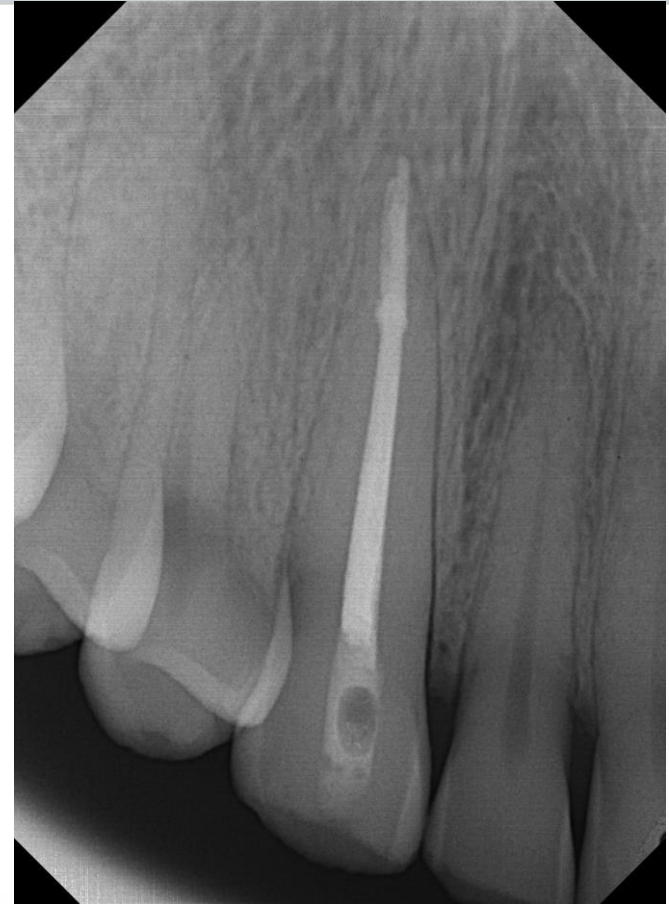
Pull vs. Save the Tooth

- Damaged nerve/blood supply = tooth ache
- Save the tooth: root canal + crown
- Pull the tooth: extraction +
 - Do nothing
 - Bridge: attach an artificial tooth to the adjacent teeth
 - Implant: solo tooth replacement
 - Partial/Complete denture

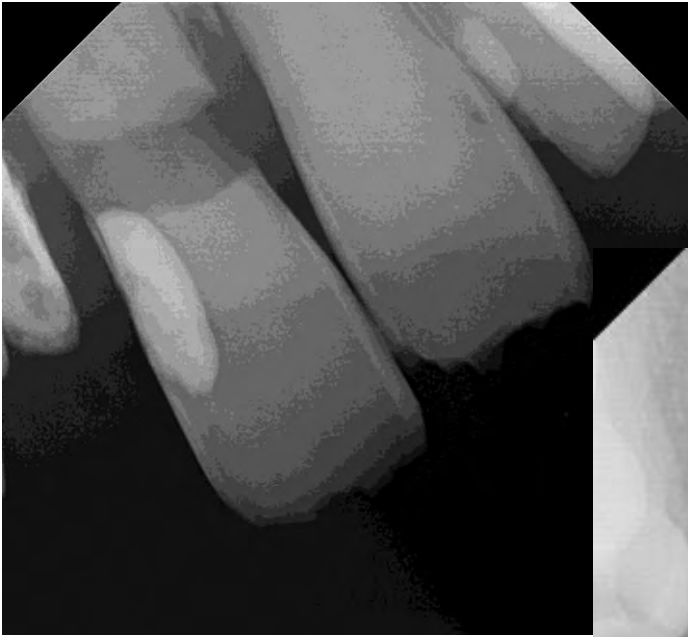
How To Treat Existing Decay

- Fillings are relatively inexpensive to treat individually, but can add up
- Untreated cavities cause toothaches
- Too large of a cavity should be crowned, but fillings can work
- Or, the tooth should be extracted

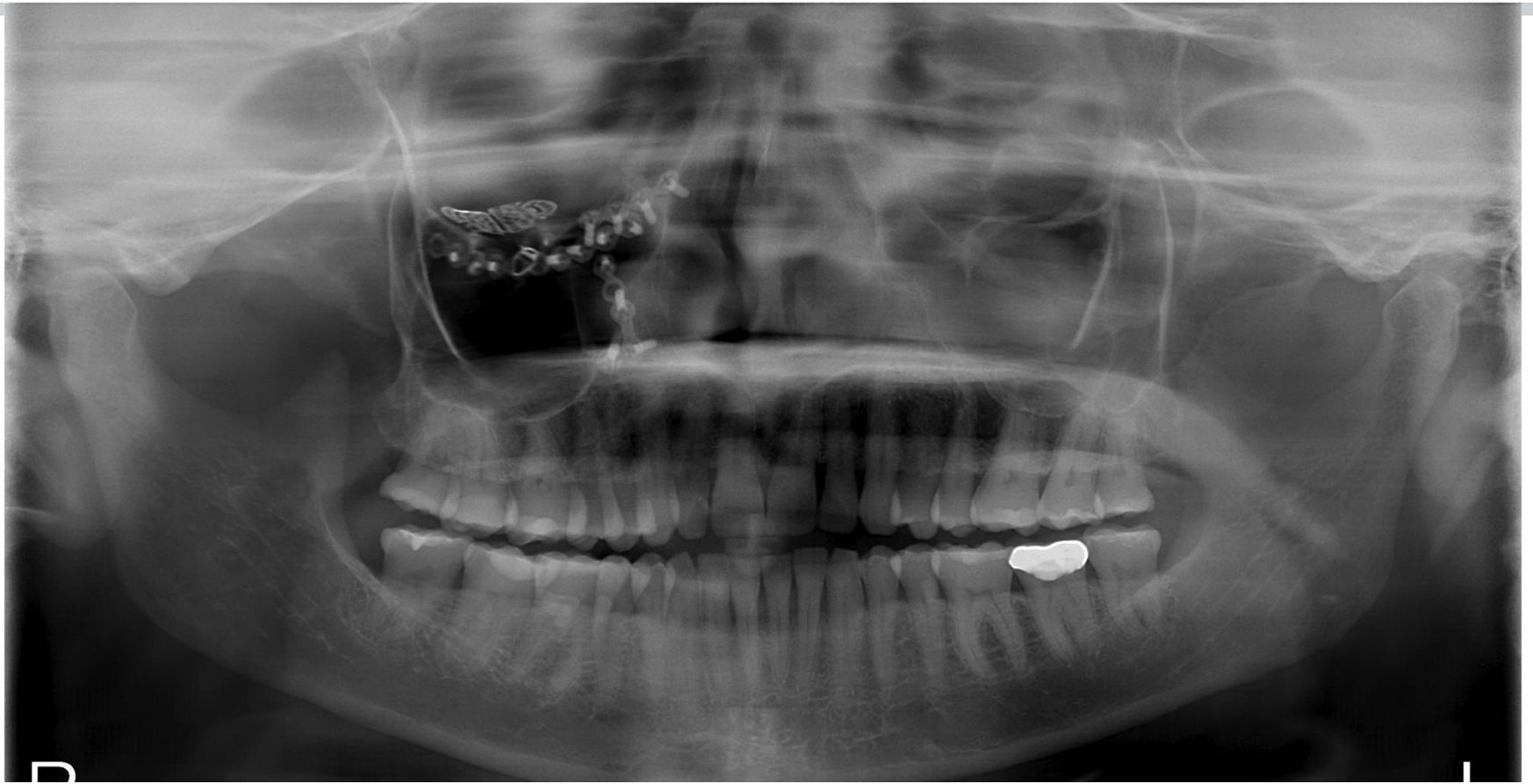
Simple Trauma



Advanced Cases



Severe Trauma



Costs

- Biggest issue for almost all dental treatment
- How do you prevent dentists from taking advantage of situations?
- How do you motivate dentists to participate?
- How do you increase access to care for victims?

Be Like an Insurance Company

- Contact local dental insurance companies for rates
 - Three tiers: Premiere level (80%), PPO (60-70%), and DHMO (50-60%)
 - They have determined the average pricing for procedures for each area
 - They have found the minimum price for every procedure dentist are willing to work for in these tiers
 - Set maximum allowable benefits for each individual

Review Boards

- Many insurance companies use them or hire dentists as 3rd parties
- Make sure that treatment is being done on appropriate teeth
- Treatment plans, x-rays, and digital photos can be shared digitally for quick turn around
- Ask for dental volunteers to review cases, or pay nominal service fees

Resources to Help Build Programs

- Local Dental Societies
 - Many have free clinics associated with them
 - Can educate dentists about the existing programs for each area
- Dental Schools
 - Can provide comprehensive care
 - Around a third the cost of private dentist
 - What you don't pay in money, you pay in time

Acceptance by Dentists

- Dentists need:
 - to be aware of programs
 - to receive some sort of proof of someone's acceptance in the program
 - to receive quick turn around on preauthorization of treatment
 - a program fee schedule (ideally)

Summary

- Get local dental society involved
- Important to implement a review board to approve treatment for cases in a timely manor
- Set a fee schedule
- Do not be afraid to encourage dentures
 - Not recommended for single tooth
 - Beneficial for restoring multiple teeth