CONDYLAR INJURIES AND POST-TRAUMATIC ANKYLOSIS

SIR,

I read with interest the article on condylar injuries in growing patients by G. Dimitroulis (Aust Dent J 1997;42:367-71) and found it to be very comprehensive and helpful.

In addition to the article, I would like to add a rare condition leading to post-traumatic ankylosis; myositis ossificans progressiva of the lateral pterygoid muscle. It is not known why certain people are susceptible to this condition in which the blood clot fails to undergo resolution thus leading to ossification in the muscle. Extracapsular ankylosis occurs and subsequently condylar growth is impaired in young patients. Although rare, ankylosis and myositis ossificans are complications of severe injury to the condyle and therefore should not be overlooked especially in young patients.

References

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PAEDIATRIC DENTISTRY: AVULSION. CASE REPORTS

SIR,

I read with interest the above named article by J. E. Rutar (Aust Dent J 1997;42:361-0). I have seen quite a number of cases of avulsed tooth in patients who have been kicked in the face by horses. It is sad to say that some of these avulsed teeth had fallen onto the horse droppings or manure. As such I am at a dilemma as whether to place back the avulsed teeth or not. The reason is that I am at a loss on how to clean these teeth properly for replacing into the socket. As far as I am aware, we are not supposed to damage the remaining delicate periodontal ligament on the avulsed tooth while cleaning it (which usually only comprises of rinsing with normal saline). If not, merely rinsing the avulsed tooth with normal saline would be sufficient. Thank you very much.

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