

MVES Dental Patient Pain Management Guidelines

Goal: Our Goal in the Miami Valley Emergency Departments is to provide the best and most evidence based care for all dental emergencies.

Pain Management: The American Dental Association notes that Local anesthesia is the foundation of pain control in dentistry. With that in mind local anesthesia should be offered to patients in an attempt for immediate pain relief.

MVES recommends following the Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement Acute Pain Assessment and Opioid Prescribing Protocol for pain management of dental emergencies (attached).

Symptomatic management of non-traumatic tooth pain*

Prior to diagnosis and treatment plan: Use appropriate non-opioid medications such as:

1. Long-acting local anesthetic (marcaine – up to 8 hours duration)
 2. Prescription analgesic – NSAIDs, such as ibuprofen
 3. Prescription combination analgesic – ibuprofen + acetaminophen
 4. Topical anesthetic rinse when indicated or upon presence of stomatitis, mucositis or mouth ulcers
 5. Antibiotics with the presence of swelling or exudates in the cheek, jaw or gum tissue
 6. Chlorhexidine antimicrobial mouth rinse when indicated, which can help with localized gum inflammation and infection, as well as soothe gum tissue
- Counsel patient that treating pain symptoms does not affect the underlying cause of tooth pain.
 - Stress need for follow-up dental appointment for accurate diagnosis and treatment.
 - Do not prescribe opioids without examination and diagnosis of the underlying reason for tooth pain, including appropriate tests and x-rays.