

INTRODUCTION

Teeth are an integral part of stomatognathic system with their functions – smiling, phonetics and mastication. An attractive smile is the important social asset and makes someone more appealing. Smile can convey confidence and an appearance, which simply reflects our emotional expression.

Loosing teeth at young age could be of various reasons ranging from trauma to gum diseases, which has physiological traits including self-esteem, optimism, depression, stress about appearance. When there is an option of replanting our own teeth, it will boost self-confidence and satisfaction.² The procedure is known as reimplantation which is a boon to dentistry.

Reimplantation refers to the insertion and fixation of completely or partly avulsed teeth that have been resulted from traumatic injury.¹³ The most conservative approach for managing the avulsed incisors is to replant them as soon as possible.

Dental avulsion is a type of dental trauma and its prevalence is estimated as 17.5%. Males are affected 3 times more than females. Prevalence is more among school children and sports person.¹⁴

CASE REPORT

A 17 year old male patient reported to the hospital with bleeding per mouth. The history revealed that the patient had met with an road traffic accident 10 minutes ago. On examination, found that the upper central incisors (11,21) were missing.

The patient elaborated that accident took place 10 minutes ago and both his upper anterior teeth were avulsed as a whole, but was dropped at the accident site. Patient's kin⁵ was advised to bring back the avulsed teeth from the accident site by holding the crown part¹⁰ of the teeth and transporting them in a bowl of milk (Figure 3).^{2,7} IOPA X ray (Figure 1) was taken to confirm that the teeth were avulsed as a whole and also to evaluate the socket. Debridement of the avulsed socket was done in an aseptic way with hank's balanced salt solution⁹ (Figure 2) and povidone iodine⁸, to remove blood clot and thereby creating fresh bleeding of the socket.

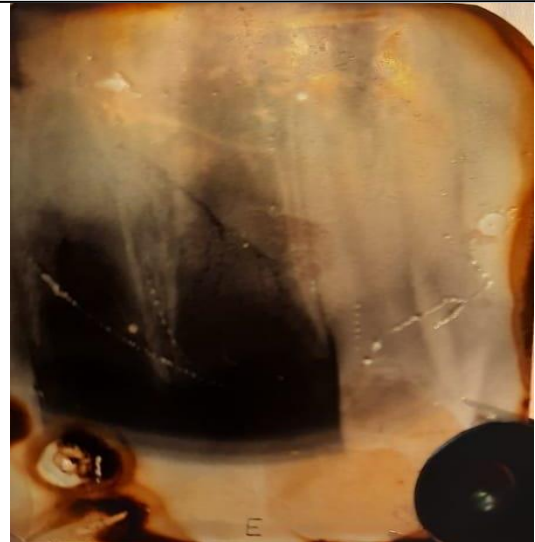


Figure 1: IOPA reveals completely avulsed 11 21 and no fracture of bone



Figure 2: Avulsed 11 ,21



Figure 3: Bowl of milk as medium of transport

The avulsed teeth were brought back within minutes and thorough debridement was done (Figure 4) by holding the crown part of the tooth with running saline.⁹ After which the tooth was inserted in their respective socket to check for initial stability. The teeth were held in position by asking the patient to bite on a sterile gauze¹⁰ (Figure 5) and digital palpitation was conducted on both labial and palatal surface to check the cortical plates were intact. Patient was asked to occlude in centric occlusion to check any pre matured contacts, selective grinding to be done if required.



Figure 4: Debridement of the avulsed socket along with acid etching



Figure 5: Avulsed 11,21 placed in their respective sockets to check snug fit

Stabilization splinting was done using a stainless steel wire with Ivoclar composite resin extending from canine to canine^{1,12} (Figure 6). Centric, eccentric premature contacts are checked with articulating paper and interferences relieved. Oral hygiene instructions were given and the patient was periodically reviewed.



Figure 6: Composite splitting done and stabilized

DISCUSSION

Reimplantation is a unique treatment of choice for avulsion of tooth. Prognosis is always positive for completely avulsed tooth. Hence in this case the teeth were avulsed as a whole thereby reimplantation was attempted.

Success of an avulsed tooth is higher if replanted within 15-20 minutes. This time period is known as golden hour.¹⁵ Reimplantation was planned for this particular case because the dry time was within the golden hour. The advantages of replanting the tooth within this golden hour are preservation of periodontal ligament vitality and reattachment, minimal inflammatory responses, repair with replacement of cementum. Disadvantages would be ankylosis, replacement resorption and external inflammatory root resorption.¹⁵

The available medium of transportation for avulsed tooth are water, hank's balanced salt solution, milk^{2,7}, coconut water³ and patient saliva.³ Milk is a better choice of medium², since high percentage of vital cells maintained for six hours and easy availability reason^{2,7}. Therefore the avulsed teeth were transported in a bowl of milk from the accident site.

Holding the tooth in the root portion would lead to disembarkment of the periodontal ligaments. Hence it is always important to handle the avulsed tooth by handling the crown portion of the tooth.¹⁰ Same was instructed to the patient's kin.^{5,10}

A thorough debridement of socket is a must with water and saline to remove blood clot and thereby creating fresh bleeding of the socket for better prognosis. It is mandatory to check the anatomical position of the teeth in the socket to establish initial stabilization. Splinting is a method of stabilization of avulsed tooth by using composite resin^{1,10}, as it is the material of choice for esthetics.

CONCLUSION

Reimplantation of avulsed permanent tooth is a boon to dentistry. The prognosis of reimplantation depends upon the extent of trauma, minimizing the extra oral dry time, material of choice of splinting, duration of stabilization and occlusal factors. Composite splinting is the traditional method of stabilization from past to present. Reimplantation of one's natural tooth with utmost care will build up self-confidence and psychological wellbeing.

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Nil

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There are no conflicts of interest.

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