

Post-extraction inferior alveolar nerve neurosensory disturbances – A guide to their evaluation and practical management

Précis: This paper focuses on the classification, causes, prevention, management, treatment options and prognosis of inferior alveolar nerve injuries, post dental extraction. Algorithms are provided to guide the practitioner on monitoring or referring these injuries and as to the pros and cons of surgery.

Abstract: Inferior alveolar nerve injuries are a recognised complication of mandibular third molar extractions. This paper describes the different types of nerve injuries that may occur. A differential of possible causes is provided and an approach to the immediate and follow-up management is outlined. The prognosis of such injuries is reviewed so that patients can be informed of the possible postoperative outcome. The algorithm shows the timeline for monitoring/referring and the included tables outline the advantages and disadvantages of surgery versus watchful waiting.

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