

# Medical emergencies in the dental surgery

## Part 1: preparation of the office and basic management

### Précis:

Preparation for, and basic management of, medical emergencies occurring in the dental surgery are discussed. Prompt recognition and management can result in a successful outcome.

### Abstract:

**Statement of the problem:** Medical emergencies can and do happen in the dental surgery. In the 20- to 30-year practice lifetime of the typical dentist, he/she will encounter between five and seven emergency situations. Being prepared in advance of the emergency increases the likelihood of a successful outcome.

**Purpose of the paper:** To prepare members of the dental office staff to be able to promptly recognise and efficiently manage those medical emergency situations that can occur in the dental office environment.

**Materials and methods:** Preparation of the dental office to promptly recognise and efficiently manage medical emergencies is predicated on successful implementation of the following four steps: basic life support for ALL members of the dental office staff; creation of a dental office emergency team; activation of emergency medical services (EMS) when indicated; and, basic emergency drugs and equipment. The basic emergency algorithm (P→C→A→B→D) is designed for implementation in all emergency situations.

**Results and conclusions:** Prompt implementation of the basic emergency management protocol can significantly increase the likelihood of a successful result when medical emergencies occur in the dental office environment.

# The application of indirect composite onlays in the restoration of severely broken down posterior teeth

**Abstract:** Increasing interest has developed among dentists regarding alternatives to traditional full-coverage crowns for the restoration of extensively broken-down teeth that are both aesthetic and less destructive of remaining tooth structure. Indirectly fabricated resin composite onlays may offer a viable and cost-effective treatment option in such cases. This paper describes the clinical rationale for resin-based onlays, and includes a case report illustrating the author's experience with the technique to date.

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