

DENTAL OFFICE EMERGENCIES

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6. Acute allergic reaction to drugs
7. Angina pectoris (possible myocardial infarction)
8. Emesis and aspiration of vomitus
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10. Over-sedation
11. Hypoglycemia
12. Asthma/Bronchospasm

1. General emergency response protocol

- _____ Quietly alert the immediate staff working with the dentist.
- _____ Get the Oxygen tank and bag-mask-valve.
- _____ Call 911! (*Do you always need to call 911?*)
- _____ Be ready to listen to orders and carry out orders.

2. Hypotension (fainting)

- _____ Position the patient into Trendelenberg position.
- _____ Elevate the patient's legs.
- _____ Turn the Nitrous Oxide off, and administer Oxygen at 8 Lpm.
- _____ Turn the I.V. fluid up wide open. Have another I.V. bag ready to hang.
- _____ Get an ammonia capsule (smelling salts) (*Old fashioned*).
- _____ Mix ephedrine: 1 ml bottle diluted with 9 ml of I.V. fluid for a total of 10 ml.
- _____ Mix phenylephrine: 1 bottle mixed into a 250 ml bag of I.V. fluid. Attach a minidrip (60 drops per ml) I.V. solution set.
- _____ Get cold washcloths for the patient's head and cool off the room.

3. Laryngospasm

- _____ Position the patient flat in the chair and adjust the chair to the operator's height.
- _____ Administer Oxygen at 8 liters per minute (Lpm).
- _____ Hook up the bag-mask-valve. Be ready to hand over a properly fitting mask.
- _____ Hook up a tonsil suction (Yankauer).
- _____ Draw up 5ml of succinylcholine.

4. Acute Airway Obstruction

- _____ Position the patient flat in the chair and adjust the chair to the operator's height.
- _____ Administer Oxygen at 8 Lpm.
- _____ Hook up the bag-mask-valve. Be ready to hand over a properly fitting mask.
- _____ Hook up a tonsil suction (Yankauer).
- _____ Get out the laryngoscope and have a styleted endotracheal tube ready.
- _____ Get out the emergency cricothyrotomy kit or the 14ga I.V. catheter with the 3 ml syringe adapter.
- _____ Get out the Magill forceps.
- _____ Turn the I.V. fluids wide open. Have another bag of I.V. fluid ready to hang.

5. Cardiopulmonary arrest

- _____ Start CPR – somebody pump the chest, somebody breathe for the patient.
- _____ Get the emergency crash cart, Oxygen tank, and bag-mask-valve.
- _____ Get out the AED and place the paddles on the patient's chest in the right positions. Cycle the AED quickly!
- _____ Call 911!
- _____ Draw up 1 ampule of epinephrine in a syringe.
- _____ Draw up 1 ampule of atropine
- _____ Draw up 1 ampule of vasopressin into a syringe.
- _____ Chart the events on an anesthesia form.
- _____ Get the Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) protocol card out of the top drawer of the anesthesia card and pipe in with comments and steps.

6. Acute Allergic Reaction

- _____ Call 911!
- _____ Turn the Nitrous Oxide off and administer Oxygen at 8 Lpm.
- _____ Have a styleted endotracheal tube and a laryngoscope (with a Macintosh 4 blade) ready.
- _____ Place the patient in Trendelenberg Position (feet above heart).
- _____ Turn the I.V. fluids wide open. Have another bag of I.V. fluid ready to hang.
- _____ Draw up 100 mg of hydrocortisone
- _____ Draw up a syringe with 50 mg of diphenhydramine (Benadryl).
- _____ Draw up a syringe with 50 mg ranitidine.
- _____ Draw up a syringe with 1 mg of epinephrine.

7. Angina Pectoris (Possible Myocardial Infarction)

- _____ Turn Nitrous Oxide off. Administer Oxygen at 8 Lpm.
- _____ Call 911!
- _____ Get the morphine sulfate.
- _____ Get the baby aspirin.
- _____ Get the sublingual nitroglycerin.
- _____ Recline the patient. Do not stress the patient.
- _____ Get cold washcloths for the patient's head.

8. Emesis (Aspiration of Vomitus)

- _____ Elevate the patient's head.
- _____ Turn the patient's head and body to the side. (Preferably to the left side)
- _____ Get the emesis basin.
- _____ Make sure the low and high speed suction can reach the patient's mouth.
- _____ Get out and hook up the tonsil suction (Yankauer).

9. Convulsions (Seizures)

- _____ Turn Nitrous Oxide off. Administer Oxygen at 8 Lpm.
- _____ Position the patient flat in the chair or flat on the floor, and guard them from injury.
- _____ Call 911!
- _____ Get 5 vials of midazolam (Versed). Draw up two vials.
- _____ Turn the I.V. fluids wide open. Have another bag of I.V. fluid ready to hang.

10. Over-sedation

- _____ Support the airway.
- _____ Confirm that there is movement of air.
- _____ Follow airway obstruction notes on page 16, if necessary.
- _____ Check heart rate and blood pressure.
- _____ Alert the dentist/anesthesia provider.

11. Hypoglycemia

- _____ Get the tube of glucose or a sugary soda for the patient to immediately drink.
- _____ Get the glucose monitor and do glucose check.
- _____ Follow the emesis protocol on page 18, if necessary.

12. Asthma/bronchospasm

- _____ Get the patient's inhaler before beginning the sedation and the surgery begin. Have it handy, or get the albuterol inhaler from the medical emergency kit.
- _____ Get the small oxygen tank.
- _____ Hook up the bag-mask-valve. Be ready to hand-over a properly fitting mask.
- _____ Administer several puffs of albuterol, may have to use the bag-mask-valve.
- _____ For bronchospasm, administer several puffs of Primatene mist inhaler.