

PERICORONITIS: GUM INFLAMMATION SURROUNDING AN ERUPTING WISDOM TOOTH



ASK

- Is there swelling at the back of the mouth in the wisdom tooth region?
- Are you experiencing any bad taste?
- Is there difficulty and pain on mouth opening?
- Have you had previous wisdom tooth symptoms?
- Is there swelling of the cheek or face?
- Do you find it difficult to swallow?
- How are you managing the pain?



ADVICE

- Keep the area clean with a small toothbrush or interspace brush
- Use chlorhexidine on a cotton bud to clean the area
- Rinse 2-3 times a day with warm salt mouth rinses or chlorhexidine mouth wash
- Use analgesia (ibuprofen, paracetamol) if required
- If obvious facial/neck swelling develops, severe pain (unmanaged by analgesics) or symptoms worsen seek urgent dental assessment



FOLLOW UP

- See a dentist for assessment and advice on long term treatment options especially if it reoccurs
- Antibiotics may be prescribed by the dentist for severe infection and swelling



ALERT

- If the patient feels unwell in themselves and has limited mouth opening (less than 2 fingers' width) and difficulty swallowing they should seek urgent medical or dental attention



PHARMACY PRODUCT

- Cotton buds
- Interspace or single tufted toothbrush
- Chlorhexidine mouthwash or gel
- Paracetamol
- Ibuprofen
- Oral syringe for irrigation
- Sugar free oral suspension analgesics