

DRY SOCKET (ALVEOLAR OSTEITIS) V2.0

Comments from the Expert Advisory Group

Dry socket is an inflammatory complication of tooth extraction.

Antibiotics should not be used for the prevention of dry socket prior to dental extraction.

Antibiotics are not indicated in the management of dry socket unless there are signs of a spreading infection or systemic involvement.

If osteomyelitis is suspected, seek specialist oral surgery/ oral and maxillofacial surgery advice.

Management involves local measures, including:

- Irrigation with saline and packing of the socket. Antimicrobial mouthwash such as chlorhexidine can be used. Caution: very rare risk of anaphylaxis with chlorhexidine.
- Prescribing or advising on analgesia.
- Advising use of warm salty mouthwashes.

Follow up and review of the patient for resolution.

Treatment

Weight Based Dosing Tables for Analgesia in Children

- [Paracetamol](#)
- [Ibuprofen](#)