

Pediatric oral and craniomaxillofacial emergencies: Diagnosis and management

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Background: Pediatric emergencies in the field of oral and cranio-maxillofacial surgery may be life-threatening conditions and are mainly related to the problems of the airway, bleeding and infection.

Materials and methods: This study will evaluate the problems related to pediatric emergencies treated at the Cranio-Maxillofacial, Oral and Plastic Surgery Department Faculty of Dentistry, Alexandria University, Egypt. The patients were suffering from problems related to:

1. Airway: like upper airway obstruction; choanal atresia, Pierre Robin Syndrome, obstructive sleep apnea syndrome.
2. Severe and/or continuous bleeding into the airway
3. Severe infection of orofacial and neck regions, particularly those of odontogenic origin especially, Ludwig's angina, and acute necrotizing fasciitis.

The experience of author's department in dealing with different clinical examples of these situations will be presented, their differential diagnosis, priorities of treatment and results will also be mentioned.

Conclusion: These clinical conditions represent a true threat to the life in pediatric patients; and the proper attention and management will save the life of these children. However, residual problems may be left and need later treatment.

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