

Cervico-facial cellulitis from dental origin: What must the general dentist know and do to avoid their fatal complications?

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Cervico-facial cellulitis from dental origin are frequent, despite the progress achieved in the fields of microbiology, prevention and antibiotics. These dental infection heal favorably after treatment, but may involve life-threatening consequences and cause death when treated badly. Some authors report a current mortality rate for acute diffuse cellulitis, of close to 30%. In specialized practice, we receive more and more patients with facial cellulitis, after they have been treated by one or more generalist dentists without results. These patients arrive with serious complications due to the treatment failure, such as, spread to neck and mediastinum, involving the vital prognosis of the patient.

The most frequent causes of the dissemination of cellulitis, initially circumscribed are: The prescription of non steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, an inadequate antibiotic therapy, and the delay of the suppression of dental causes. Some other publications, have identified some risk factors of the dissemination such as, diabetes mellitus and immune deficiency.

Through the presentation, the author would like to insist on the role of the dentist in the initial adequate treatment of circumscribed cellulitis and abscess to avoid their dissemination and the occurrence of fatal complications.

Learning objectives :

- To learn how to recognise the different clinical forms of cellulitis and choose the appropriate treatment for each form
- To learn about the antibiotic therapy prescription and how to choose the adequate antibiotic molecule according to health status of the patient
- To learn how to make a decision about the moment of the aetiological treatment
- To learn about the prevention of these pathologies

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