

## Differential Diagnosis of Dental Pain

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**Received:** September 19, 2023; **Published:** October 12, 2023

Abundant times you may face this problem when a patient comes to you with dental and facial pain without any manifestation of any pathology on oral examination, here are some quick reviews of differential diagnoses of pain:

1. Pain after filling due to high spot.
2. Sharp, dull, throbbing, constant, longer pain.
3. Pain after prosthesis.
4. Pain after eating.
5. Pain after orthodontic treatment.
6. Pain after brushing.
7. Pain after cold and hot.
8. Pain after taking some medicine.
9. Pain while opening mouth.
10. Pain while talking.
11. Pain after scaling.
12. Pain after teeth bleaching.
13. Pain after chewing.
14. Pain on biting.
15. Burning sensation in gums.
16. Pain and bleeding.
17. Psychological pain.
18. Anxiety pain.
19. Pain in the jaw due to cardiac disease.
20. Fractured tooth pain.
21. Pain caused by fractured or damaged filling.
22. Teeth grinding or bruxism pain.

23. Pain due to sinus infection.
24. Pericoronitis (Wisdom tooth eruption).

**Pain after filling:** Overfilled material, high spots, or sometimes the prolonged opening of the mouth may trigger pain for some period, if pain persists for 2 to 3 days, revisit the dentist.

**Pain, sharp, dull, throbbing, constant, longer pain:** Deep cavity that irritates the underlying nerve, Inflammation of the underlying nerve, may be a pulp disease like pulpitis.

**Pain after prosthesis:** Sometimes prosthesis takes time to adjust in the mouth and the patient needs some period to adapt habits to new things inside the mouth, but yes, it is also a fact that there must be accurate laboratory work, minute sharpness, and overfilled material create discomfort and pain, recent denture or bridge or crown insertion may initiate pain.

**Pain after eating:** Food particles that cannot be cleaned by self-cleansing may create pain called food impaction, Spicy food is also one of the causes of pain, some sharp particles in the food like bone, injure gums and may initiate pain.

**Pain after orthodontic treatment:** During orthodontic treatment, the patient will experience pain time by time due to the moment of teeth.

**Pain after brushing:** Wrong brushing techniques, extra brushing forces, and inaccurate selection of toothbrushes may be the causative agents of pain.

**Pain after cold and hot:** This may be due to a chip off enamel, exposed dentine, microleakage in the filling, deep cavity, or exposed pulp chamber aggravated by hot and cold objects.

**Pain after taking some medicine:** I will not mention the names of any medicines that alter the taste, or pH of saliva or gums physiology, you need to visit your physician.

**Pain while opening mouth:** Restlessness, wrong posture (Person used to hold the cell phone in between shoulder and ear part of the face(cheekbone) while working with hand), bad habit of holding any object in the mouth in between upper and lower teeth like pencil, pen. Tense jaw muscles, angular cheilitis, injury of lips, and corner of mouth.

**Pain while talking:** This condition may be due to your jaw muscle dysfunction and tension, mouth ulcer, especially on the tongue's rear part, temporomandibular joint dislocation, infected tonsils, and badly malposed teeth. Sharp and broken edges of teeth, especially molars.

**Pain after scaling:** Sometimes patients may experience pain due to deep scaling or after the removal of heavy tartar Pain may be due to exposed dentine, or sometimes psychological pain. All these conditions will be repaired by a natural process, if pain is persistent, do visit your dentist.

**Pain after teeth bleaching:** The first cause is maybe tired jaw muscle because in bleaching patients experience a long time to mouth open during the bleaching procedure. Secondly, sometimes bleaching agents cross the gum barrier and start itching the gums, thirdly teeth sensitivity.

**Pain after chewing:** Overexercise of chewing muscles, psychological pain, too much talking, and eating hard food, sticky food, or sometimes the presence of some pathology in the teeth, gums mandibular and maxillary muscles and nerves. Periodontitis will produce throbbing pain.

**Pain on biting:** A common cause of pain on biting is tooth fracture, there may be inside and outside pathology. The patient may experience throbbing pain due to tooth trauma.

**Burning sensation in gums:** Burning mouth syndrome (Neurological condition) Or any other gums pathology, psychological condition, delusion, medicine side effect, xerostomia (dry mouth), local causes are trauma and spicy food.

**Pain and bleeding:** Local causes may be traumatic gums after harsh brushing, gums inflammation, gingivitis, periodontitis, and hormonal changes like pregnancy.

**Psychological pain:** There will be no visual signs or pathology on intra-oral examination, unexplained pain, patient cannot identify and explain the nature of the pain, sometimes it may be referred pain from shoulder and temporal pathology.

**Anxiety pain and unseen fear:** Before appointments, patients may experience un see fear of pain, dental treatment phobia, fear of needle prick, and dental handpiece drill noise.

**Pain in the jaw due to cardiac disease:** You can name it neurovascular toothache due to the path of a nerve called the vagas nerve. Because of the nerve's oral route patients may feel pain in the jaw.

**Fractured tooth:** A fractured tooth is also a causative agent of sharp pain on biting mostly it is caused by vertical fracture of the tooth.

**Pain caused by fractured or damaged filling:** This condition may cause discomfort and toothache pain.

**Teeth grinding or bruxism pain:** The throbbing pain takes place due to the teeth-grinding habit. The patient can't identify the cause because it is an involuntary action while sleeping. Muscles and jaw bones may be the victims of that habit.

**Pain due to sinus infection:** The patient may experience throbbing pain, there could be mimic pain due to root and sinus close contact.

**Pericoronitis (Wisdom tooth eruption):** Periodically pain may arise. It arises mostly in the unerupted or half-erupted third molar. Impacted molar is also one of the causes.

**Volume 6 Issue 11 November 2023**

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