

SETTING

Private Dental Clinic

PATIENT

You are 57 years old and attended this clinic three weeks ago for a check-up, which was fine, but last night you bit down hard on a piece of food and chipped your top right back molar. You have had an X-ray and the dentist has just examined your teeth.

TASK

- When asked, say you were eating some walnuts last night and you heard a crack. You looked and saw that a small part of one of your top teeth had broken off; you still have the bit of tooth that broke off. You aren't in any pain.
- When asked, say you still don't understand how you chipped your tooth just from eating walnuts; you've eaten them many times before and this has never happened.
- When asked, say you brush your teeth twice a day. You use a mouthwash but you don't floss. You see a hygienist to get your teeth cleaned every couple of years.
- Say if you brush and floss regularly, surely you don't need to see the hygienist every six months.
- Say you understand now that daily flossing is important and you'll see the hygienist more regularly; you're ready to begin the bonding procedure.

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DENTIST

You see a 57-year-old who attended the clinic three weeks ago for a check-up, which was fine. However, last night he/she bit down hard on a piece of hard food and chipped the upper-right second molar (tooth 17). You have taken an X-ray and have just examined the patient.

TASK

- Find out more details about chipped tooth (when/what happened, any pain, etc.).
- Give findings of examination/X-ray (chip to upper-right second molar/tooth 17). Advise need for bonding procedure (e.g., restoration of normal appearance and function, protection of inner layers from irritation/infection, etc.). Outline bonding procedure (e.g., roughening of tooth surface, application of adhesive material, shaping of tooth, hardening with ultra-violet light, etc.). Find out any questions.
- Emphasise possible reasons for chipping of tooth (e.g., trauma/injury from biting on hard food, weakened tooth enamel, etc.). Suggest how to avoid chipping teeth (e.g., regular check-ups, avoiding hard foods: popcorn kernels, nuts, ice, etc.). Find out about patient's oral hygiene (regularity of brushing, use of floss/mouthwash, frequency of tooth cleaning/hygienist appointments, etc.).
- Advise patient on oral hygiene (e.g., flossing daily, etc.). Recommend regular hygienist appointments every six months (e.g., deep cleaning, scaling, etc.).
- Stress importance of regular hygienist visits (e.g., thorough cleaning, prevention of tooth loss, etc.). Establish patient's consent to begin bonding procedure.