

Use of Antibiotics in Impacted Third Molar Surgery

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The faculty of Dentistry at Kuwait University is a recently launched dental school. It has adopted a modern protocol for surgical removal of impacted mandibular third molar teeth (M3) with strict adherence to aseptic techniques and without prescribing perioperative systemic antibiotics unless indicated in minor outpatient dento-alveolar surgeries, in a dental community where there is a tradition for indiscriminate overuse of antibiotics. The aim of this study was to evaluate the rate of postoperative infection and other postoperative complications after surgical removal of impacted M3 following such a protocol.

Subjects and materials: a total of 110 consecutive surgical removal of fully and partially impacted M3 under local anesthesia in 90 patients performed by one specialist oral and maxillofacial surgeon. Fifty nine were females, and 31 were males with average age of 25.2 years. All surgeries were done under strict aseptic technique as adopted by operating room protocol. All patients were given Corsodyl mouth twice a day for 4 -7 days preoperatively. No systemic perioperative antibiotics were prescribed. The rate of postoperative infection and other complications were evaluated clinically.

Results: Postoperative infection was found to occur after 6 surgeries of the 110 (5.5%). Other complications were alveolar osteitis with 8.2%, postoperative pain lasting more than 1 week with 4.3%, and sensory dysfunction of inferior alveolar nerve with 0.8%.

Conclusion: The low rate of postoperative infection (5.5%) encouraged our OMFS outpatient clinic to continue the same protocol in dento-alveolar surgeries without the routine description of antibiotics unless indicated.

Biography:

Dr. Adel Al-Asfour Currently the Dean of Faculty of Dentistry, Kuwait University.

Associate Professor in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Recertified Diplomate of the American Board of oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Completed The OMFS Residency Training Program in OMFS at University of Chicago at Illinois (UIC) in 2000. One-year Fellowship Training in Reconstructive and OMFS Trauma at Hines, Illinois, 2001. Joined the Faculty of Dentistry since 2003. Interest includes Dentoalveolar surgery, Orthognathic surgery, dental implants.