

A Memphis Toothache Became a Life-Threatening Emergency: Southaven Specialist Warns Patients

After a local woman developed Ludwig's angina and sepsis, Dr. Pradeep Adatrow urges Memphis and Mid-South patients not to ignore dental infection symptoms.

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/EINPresswire.com/ -- A toothache may seem like something that can wait until tomorrow. But for one Memphis-area woman, what began as dental pain progressed into a life-threatening infection that required emergency surgery and hospitalization.

The case, documented by Regional One Health, involved a local woman whose [dental infection](#) progressed to Ludwig's angina, a serious bacterial infection involving the floor of the mouth and neck. Her condition also progressed toward sepsis, requiring rapid medical intervention.

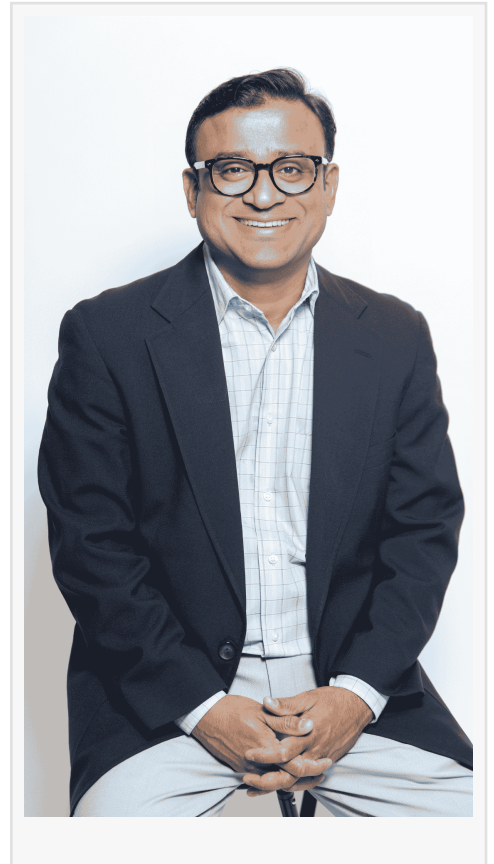
The case is now prompting a renewed warning from Dr. Pradeep Adatrow, DDS, MSD, a dual board-certified specialist in Periodontics and Prosthodontics and founder of Advanced Dental Implant and TMJ Center in Southaven, Mississippi.

For patients throughout Memphis, Southaven, Olive Branch, Horn Lake, Hernando, DeSoto County and the Mid-South, Dr. Adatrow says the lesson is straightforward: persistent dental pain, swelling and other signs of infection should not be ignored.

"Many people try to wait out dental pain, hoping it will go away on its own. But when pain is accompanied by swelling, fever, difficulty opening the mouth, or trouble swallowing, that can be a sign the infection is spreading. That is not the time to wait."

— Dr. Pradeep Adatrow, DDS, MSD

When a Tooth Infection Becomes a Medical Emergency

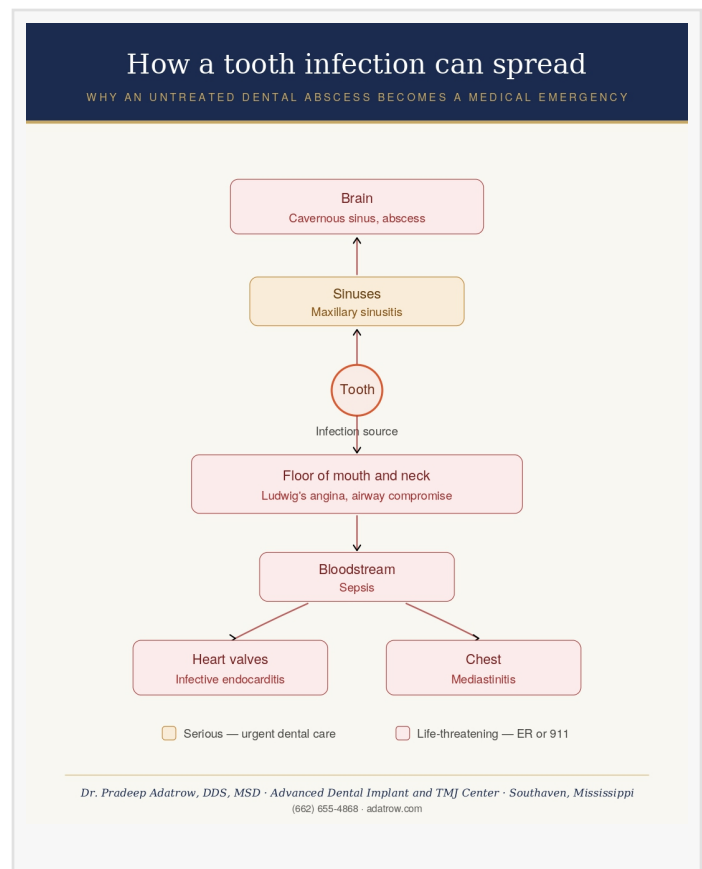


Dental infections can begin with symptoms that appear relatively minor — a toothache, sensitivity, swelling around a tooth or a bad taste in the mouth.

But when bacteria spread beyond the tooth and surrounding tissues, the situation can become considerably more serious.

Ludwig's angina is one such complication. The infection affects tissues beneath the tongue and floor of the mouth and can cause significant swelling. Because these tissues are close to the airway, rapidly progressing infection can create a potentially dangerous situation.

An untreated dental infection can also spread into surrounding areas of the head and neck and, in severe cases, contribute to bloodstream infection and sepsis.



For this reason, Dr. Adatrow encourages patients not to judge the seriousness of a dental infection solely by how much the tooth hurts.

“

Many people try to wait out dental pain, but swelling, fever, difficulty opening the mouth or trouble swallowing can signal a spreading infection.”

*Dr. Pradeep Adatrow, DDS,
MSD*

“The absence of severe pain does not necessarily mean the infection is harmless,” said Dr. Adatrow. “What matters is how the symptoms are changing. Increasing swelling, fever, difficulty opening the mouth or problems swallowing are warning signs that deserve immediate attention.”

Warning Signs of a Dental Infection

Patients should seek prompt dental evaluation when they

experience:

Persistent or worsening tooth pain

Swelling around the gums or tooth

Swelling of the jaw or face

Fever or chills associated with dental pain

Pus, drainage or a persistent bad taste in the mouth

Difficulty chewing

Increasing difficulty opening the mouth

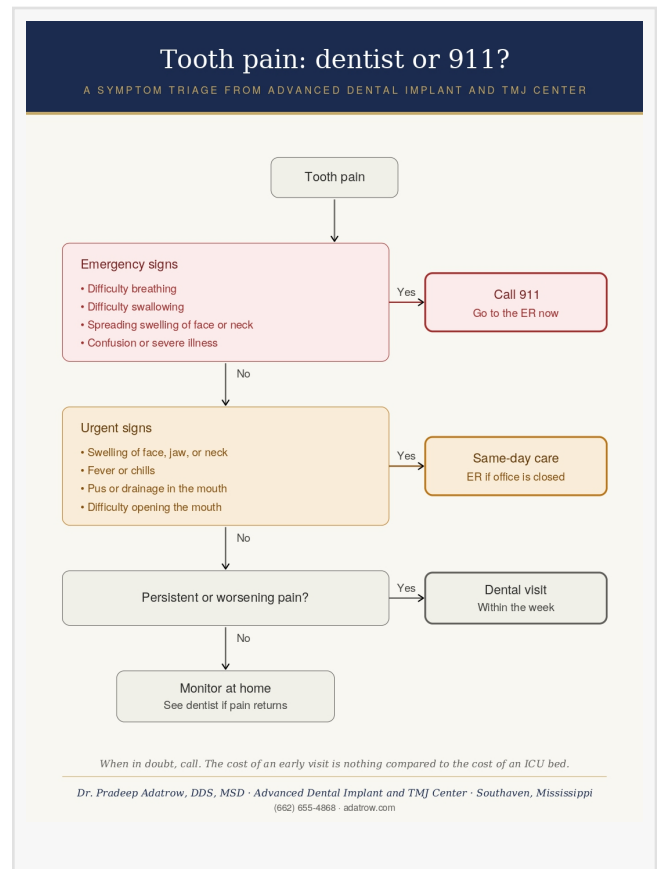
Some symptoms, however, require emergency medical attention.

Difficulty Breathing or Swallowing? Don't Wait.

Patients experiencing difficulty breathing, difficulty swallowing, rapidly spreading swelling of the face or neck, confusion or signs of severe illness should seek emergency medical care immediately.

These symptoms may indicate that an infection is spreading into deeper tissues or affecting the airway.

"If you are having difficulty breathing or swallowing, that is no longer something to watch at home," said Dr. Adatrow. "Those symptoms can indicate that swelling or infection has reached an area where it can become dangerous very quickly."



Why Antibiotics Alone May Not Fix a Dental Infection

Another common misconception is that antibiotics will always eliminate a dental infection.

Antibiotics may be necessary in certain situations, particularly when an infection has spread or when a patient has specific medical risk factors. However, antibiotics do not necessarily remove the underlying source of infection.

Depending on the cause, definitive dental treatment may include drainage, root canal therapy, periodontal treatment or extraction.

The American Dental Association recommends prioritizing definitive dental treatment for appropriate patients rather than relying unnecessarily on antibiotics alone.

A Regional Resource for Complex Dental Care

Located in Southaven, Mississippi, Advanced Dental Implant and TMJ Center serves patients throughout the greater Memphis metropolitan area, North Mississippi and surrounding Mid-South communities.

Founded by Dr. Pradeep Adatrow, the practice specializes in advanced periodontal care, [dental](#)

[implants](#), complex restorative treatment, full-mouth reconstruction, TMJ/TMD treatment and sedation dentistry.

Dr. Adatrow is dual board-certified in Periodontics and Prosthodontics, an uncommon combination of specialty training that provides expertise in both the supporting structures of the teeth and the restoration and replacement of damaged or missing teeth.

The practice also provides advanced dental implant treatment, including full-arch reconstruction, as well as treatment for patients with complex periodontal conditions, advanced bone loss and challenging dental cases.

A Simple Message for Memphis-Area Patients

Not every toothache becomes a medical emergency.

But every persistent or worsening toothache deserves attention.

A patient who notices increasing swelling, fever, drainage, difficulty opening the mouth or other signs of infection should not simply assume the problem will disappear.

And when symptoms progress to difficulty swallowing, difficulty breathing or rapidly spreading swelling, emergency medical care may be necessary.

The recent Memphis-area case serves as a reminder that dental infections can sometimes progress much faster than patients expect.

“Our message is simple: Do not ignore dental pain. Do not assume swelling is normal. Early treatment can prevent a small dental problem from becoming a medical emergency.”

— Dr. Pradeep Adatrow, DDS, MSD

About Dr. Pradeep Adatrow and Advanced Dental Implant and TMJ Center

Dr. Pradeep Adatrow, DDS, MSD, is a dual board-certified specialist in Periodontics and Prosthodontics and founder of Advanced Dental Implant and TMJ Center in Southaven, Mississippi.

The practice provides specialty dental care for patients throughout the greater Memphis metropolitan area, North Mississippi and the Mid-South, with a focus on periodontal treatment, dental implants, full-mouth reconstruction and sedation dentistry.

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