Inferior Alveolar Nerve Injury Clinical Management Pathway

Removal of lower third molar

Postoperative review

Stimulus-evoked paraesthesia (surgical intervention unlikely)

Inform patient
Monitor recovery
- light touch
- pin prick
- 2 point discrimination

I Month after injury

Complete recovery

Section of inferior alveolar nerve noted at operation

Immediate microsurgical repair if ends not opposed or urgent referral

Dysaesthesia or anaesthesia (surgical intervention may be required)

CBCT to ensure no tooth or bone fragment obstructing canal

YES

Removal of obstruction or urgent referral

NO

Limited or no recovery

Consider referral to a specialist centre for exploration/microsurgical repair

SHEFFIELD TRIGEMINAL NERVE INJURY REFERRAL SERVICE
The Charles Clifford Dental Hospital, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Surgery usually only appropriate if:
- Discontinuity of canal visible on radiograph
- Substantial deficit of persistent dysaesthesia

For Clinical Referrals contact:
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