

Management of Medical Emergencies in Dental Practice Asthma Clinical Scenario

In this video, we are going to look into the management of an emergency asthmatic attack in a dental office.

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Asthma is a heterogeneous multifactorial disease with variable and mostly reversible respiratory pathway obstruction based on bronchial inflammatory reaction. The triggering factor for asthma can be any allergen, stress or anxiety, drugs such as NACIDs, cold exposure, smoking, or any underlying lung infection.

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The precautionary measures to avoid a systematic attack are to make the patient sit in an upright position during the procedure. Fix late morning appointments to avoid cold exposure and try to avoid things like air conditioners and be prepared for emergency management. Asthma can be diagnosed predominantly by its clinical features, such as difficulty in breathing, tightness across the chest, sense of impending suffocation, without fever, or any local inflammation.

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Now, the patient is having an asthmatic attack, we should first stop the procedure. We assured the patient that this condition is reversible. Make the patient sit in an upright position, advice him to take the salbutamol puff, which will aid in bronchodilation and administer oxygen to compensate for the effort of the lungs.

Steroids like hydrocortisone 150 milligram can be administered to reduce the inflammation and Deriphyllin can be administered intramuscularly. If even after the administration of these drugs, the episode continues, call for medical assistance.