

The Role of the Dentist in the Craniofacial Trauma Team

Historically facial trauma has been managed by a variety of techniques which have undergone stepwise evolution alongside advances in imaging, biomaterials, and surgical techniques.

Dental Surgeons have driven this process due to their understanding of the local anatomy and functional demands of the jaw and the appreciation of the importance of surgical accuracy with a tolerance measured in fractions of a millimetre.

This presentation will demonstrate the latest advances in the management of craniomaxillofacial trauma, but also address the constellation of signs and symptoms of facial injuries as they would present to the dental surgeon.

Injuries to the soft tissues, mandible, mid and upper face will be discussed together with criteria for referral and ongoing management.

Course Aim

To learn about the common presentations and recognition of facial fractures and soft tissue management. This is important as these conditions will present to dentists e.g. a broken tooth after a punch, or even when watching a game of rugby on the touchlines - 'would you mind looking at his jaw...?'

Course Objectives

- 1 To understand the role of the dentist in more significant facial injuries - prognostication, occlusal assessment and management.
- 2 To discuss reconstruction of dental trauma in concert with skeletal base disruption and ongoing pathology.



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Simon Holmes is a Consultant Maxillofacial Surgeon specialising in facial trauma at the Royal London Hospital.

Key facts about your speaker include:

- Pioneered and popularised several novel surgical techniques, introduced advanced computer planning and surgical navigation within craniofacial trauma.
- Led the development of the Craniofacial Trauma Multidisciplinary Team which is modelled on the lessons learned from the teams led by Harold Gillies in the First World War and Hugh Cairns in the Second World War.
- Lectured internationally, the author of two textbooks on facial trauma and contributor to several others including Grays Anatomy.
- Led national investigations into Surgical Standards within Facial Trauma on behalf of the RCS.
- Research interests include risk adjustment and outcome assessment of facial trauma and morbidity following skull base fracture.
- Assistant editor for the British Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery on the Editorial Board for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. He was also elected by his association to the position of National Lead for Facial Trauma Special Interest Group last year.