

Maxillofacial Trauma

Maxillofacial trauma, also known as facial trauma, is any type of physical trauma to the face. It can involve soft tissue injuries, such as lacerations, bruises, burns or fractures of the facial bones, such as that of nasal fractures, eye injury trauma and jaw fractures. Symptoms tend to be specific to the type of injury sustained, such as fractures that involve pain, loss of function, swelling and changes in the shape of the facial structure.

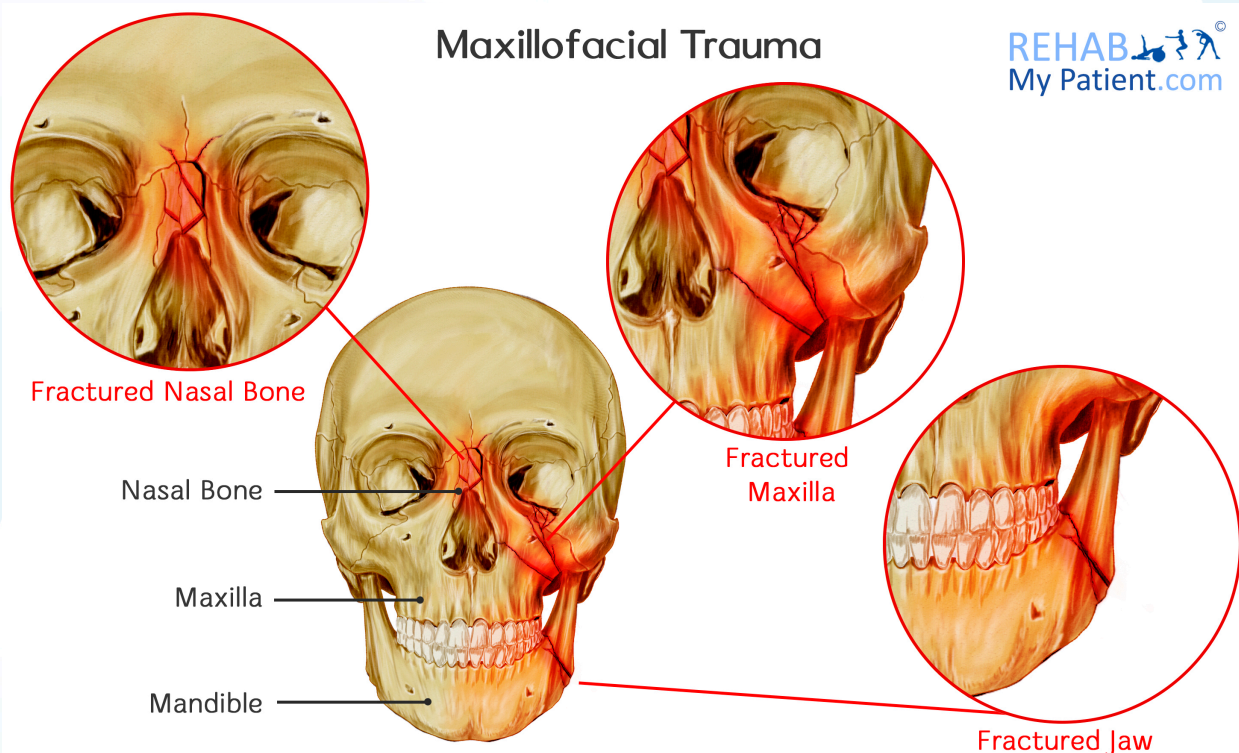
These injuries have the potential to cause loss of function and disfigurement, such as blindness or trouble with being able to move the jaw. Even though it often isn't life-threatening, it can be deadly. It can cause interference with the airway or severe bleeding, which is a huge concern when it comes to treatment and making sure the airway is opened and not at risk so the patient can breathe.

Injury mechanisms like assaults, falls, car accidents and vehicle crashes are common causes of facial trauma. Blunt assaults such as a blow from an object or a fist are another common denominator for facial injuries. It can also be the result of a wartime injury like a gunshot. Work-related injuries and animal attacks are other causes. Vehicular trauma is one of the main causes of facial trauma.

Usually these injuries will end up in A&E or the Emergency Room. The sight of a lot of blood from the nose is usually enough to worry most people. Each main hospital will have their own maxillofacial (maxfax) or ENT (ear nose and throat) teams. These will often consist of anesthetists, plastic surgeons, maxillofacial and ENT surgeons.

Maxillofacial Trauma Anatomy

Commonly injured bones for this trauma include the nasal bone, maxilla and the mandible. The mandible might be fractured at its body, symphysis, ramus, angle and condyle. The frontal bone and zygoma are other locations for these fractures. A fracture can also occur in the palate bones and those that join together to form the eye orbit.



How to Treat a Maxillofacial Trauma:

1. Antibiotics

To prevent an infection from occurring, an antibiotic might be prescribed for you to take.

2. Dressing

If you have any open wounds, a dressing will be applied to make sure they stay clean and begin the healing process.

3. Stitches

For those who are having problems with stopping the bleeding, stitches might be required to close the laceration and facilitate healing, while working to minimize scarring.

4. Nasal Packing

If you have a nose bleed or hematoma that formed on the septum between the nostrils, nasal packing can help to control the bleeding.

5. Surgery

If there is obvious disfigurement, surgery may be required to correct the problem.

One of the most common is a broken nose with deviated septum.

6. Ice

If there is inflammation, apply ice to the area for 5-10 minutes at a time three to five times per day.

Make sure to wrap the ice with a thin towel to prevent an ice burn from occurring.

Discuss with your doctors or therapists about using this first.



Tips:

- Wearing seat belts when riding in a motor vehicle can prevent you from being thrown about in an accident.
- When playing sports, make sure you wear a helmet to keep your face protected as much as possible.
- Make sure you wear a helmet when riding on a motorcycle or other motorized vehicle to ensure you aren't leaving yourself prone to additional injuries that could be prevented.