

Numbness in your tongue after a dental procedure?

Treatment pathway for patients with a lingual nerve injury



1 After a surgical dental procedure you notice a loss of sensation in the tongue area that persists for longer than 12 hours.

This can range from some numbness in the region to complete numbness across the entire area.

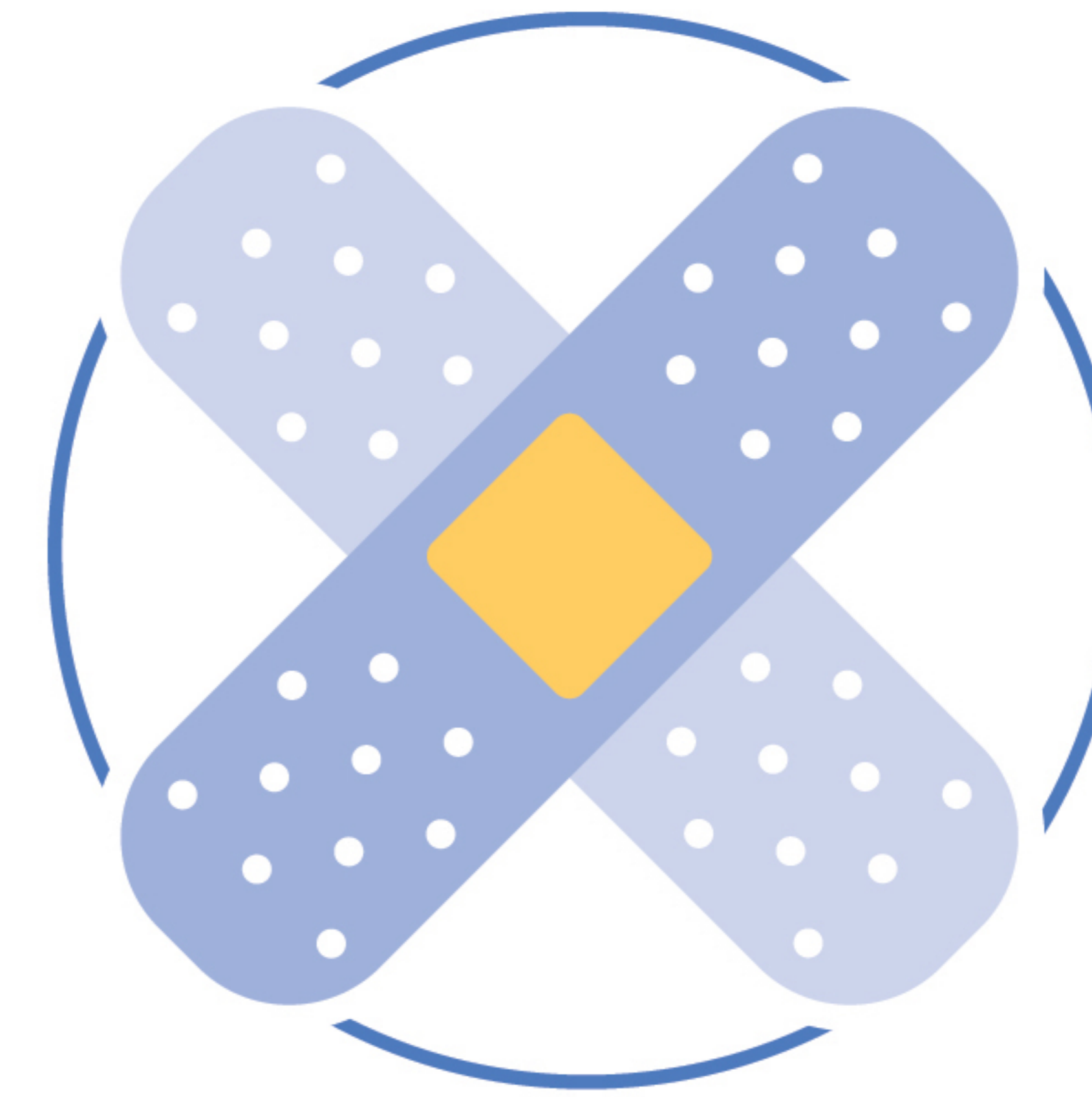


2 Arrange an appointment with your dentist or surgeon for a postoperative review.



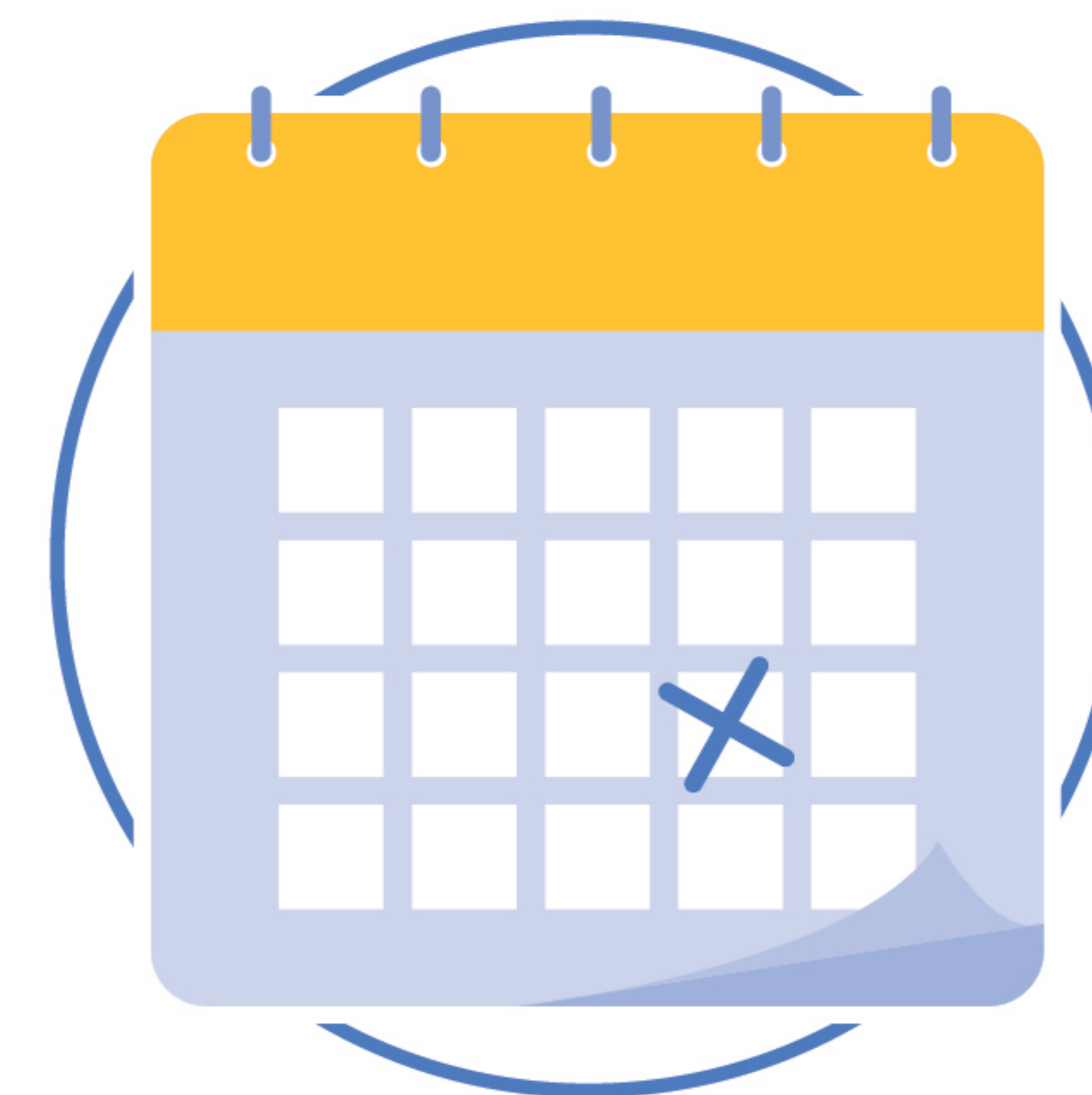
3 The dentist may perform a series of tests to see how your tongue responds to various levels of touch.

These tests are quick and painless, they are usually done using a fine filament placed on the tongue.



4a If you have complete loss of sensation in your tongue then your dentist may refer you for trigeminal nerve repair.

This can be done with a simple referral letter from your dentist or your oral surgeon to The Charles Clifford Dental Hospital, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.



4b In many cases sensation returns, so if your dental surgery was carried out recently then your dentist may ask you to return for a review one month later.



If the feeling in your tongue hasn't significantly improved at all after one month, then your dentist should refer you for further assessment and treatment.

This can be done with a simple referral letter from your dentist to us here at the Sheffield Trigeminal Nerve Injury Referral Service, The Charles Clifford Dental Hospital, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.