

Numbness in your lip or chin after a dental procedure?

Treatment pathway for patients with an inferior alveolar nerve injury



- 1** After a surgical dental procedure you notice a loss of sensation in the lip and chin 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 lip and chin area responds to various levels of touch.

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



- 4** If you have complete loss of sensation in your lip and chin area then your dentist may carry out a scan.

This is to make sure there is no tooth or bone fragment obstructing the path of the nerve. If there is a tooth or bone fragment this may need to be removed.



- 5** If there is only some numbness in your lip and chin area your dentist may ask you to return for a review one month later.

Sometimes feeling might return over time.



- 6** If the numbness hasn't significantly improved 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 or your oral surgeon to us here at the Sheffield Trigeminal Nerve Injury Referral Service, The Charles Clifford Dental Hospital, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.