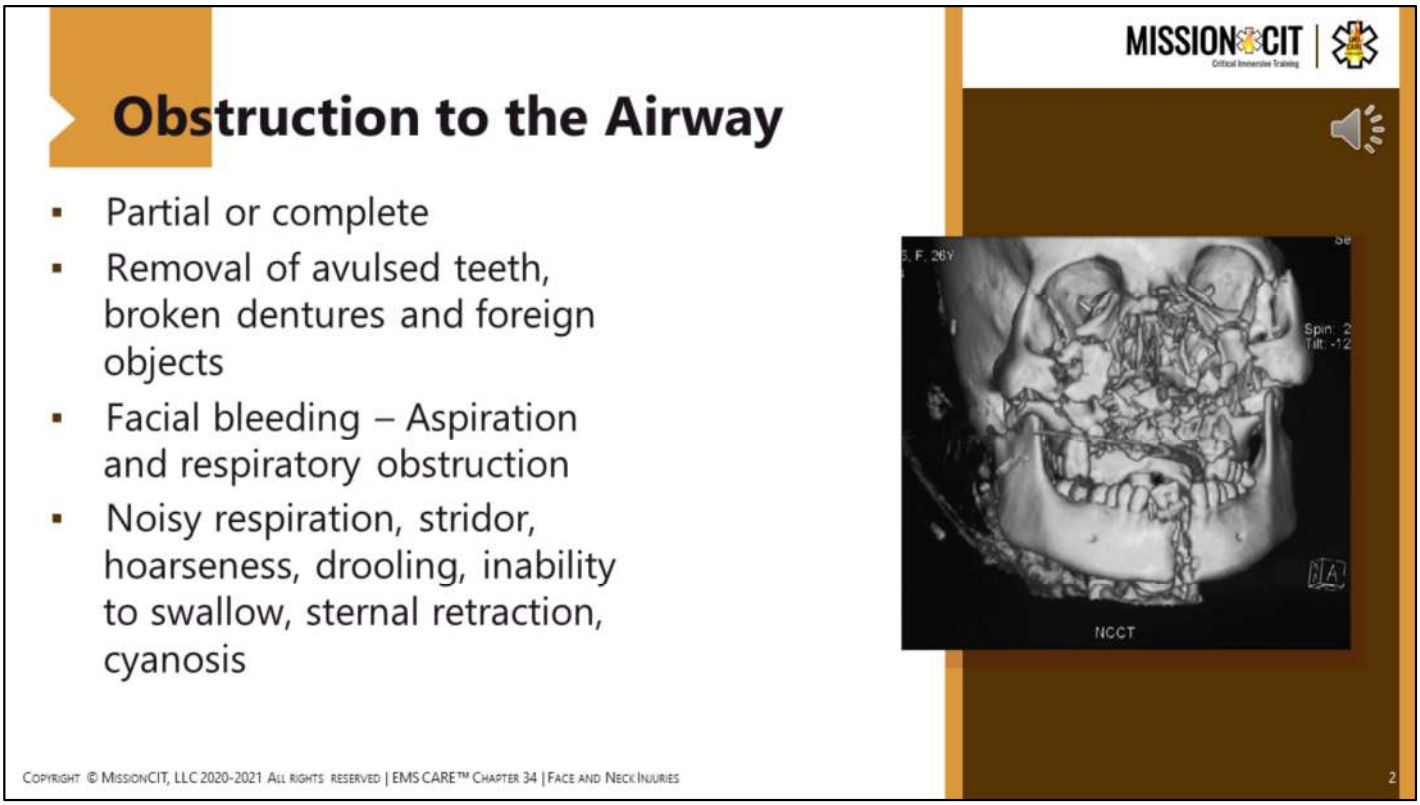
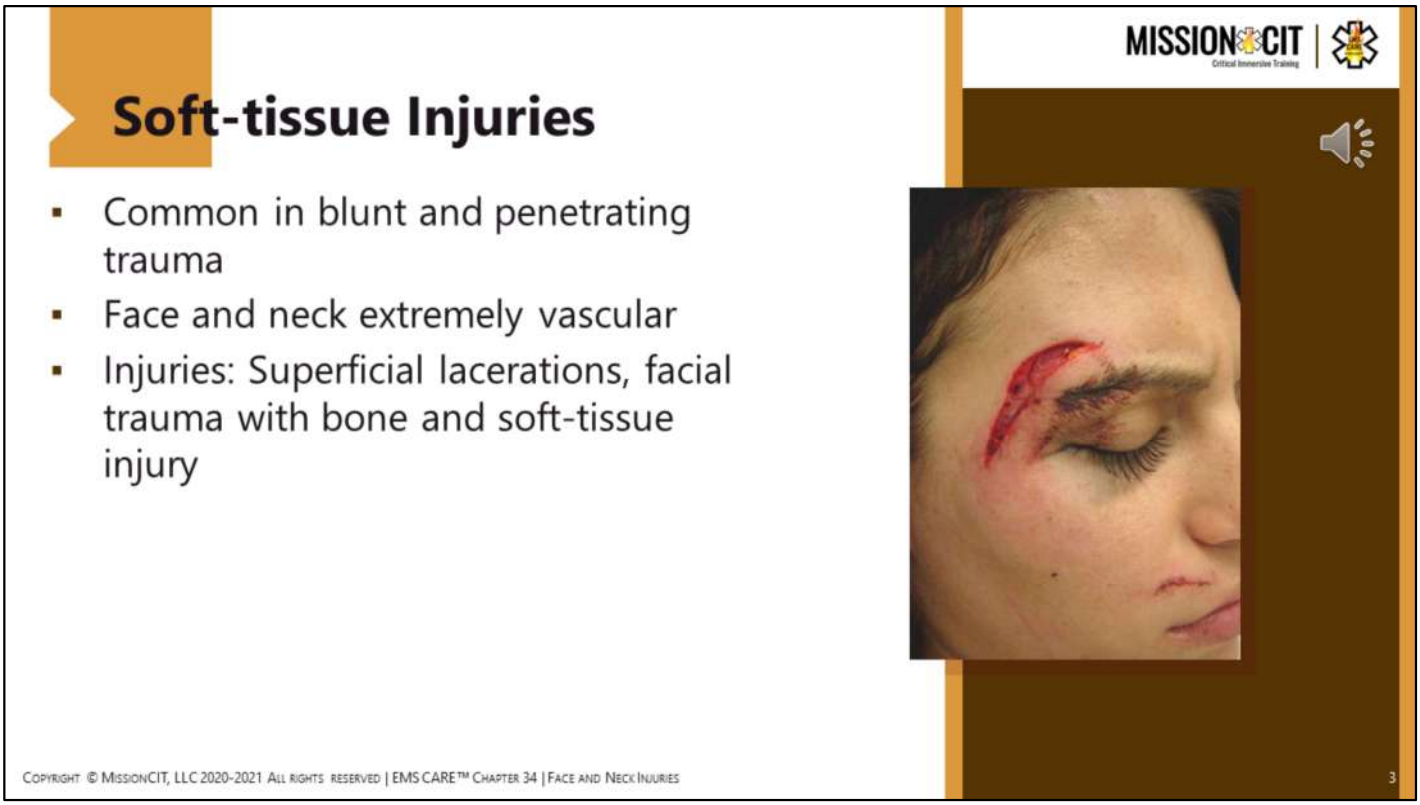


Thank you, Justin! Welcome to this lesson where we talk about the possible injuries to the face and neck.



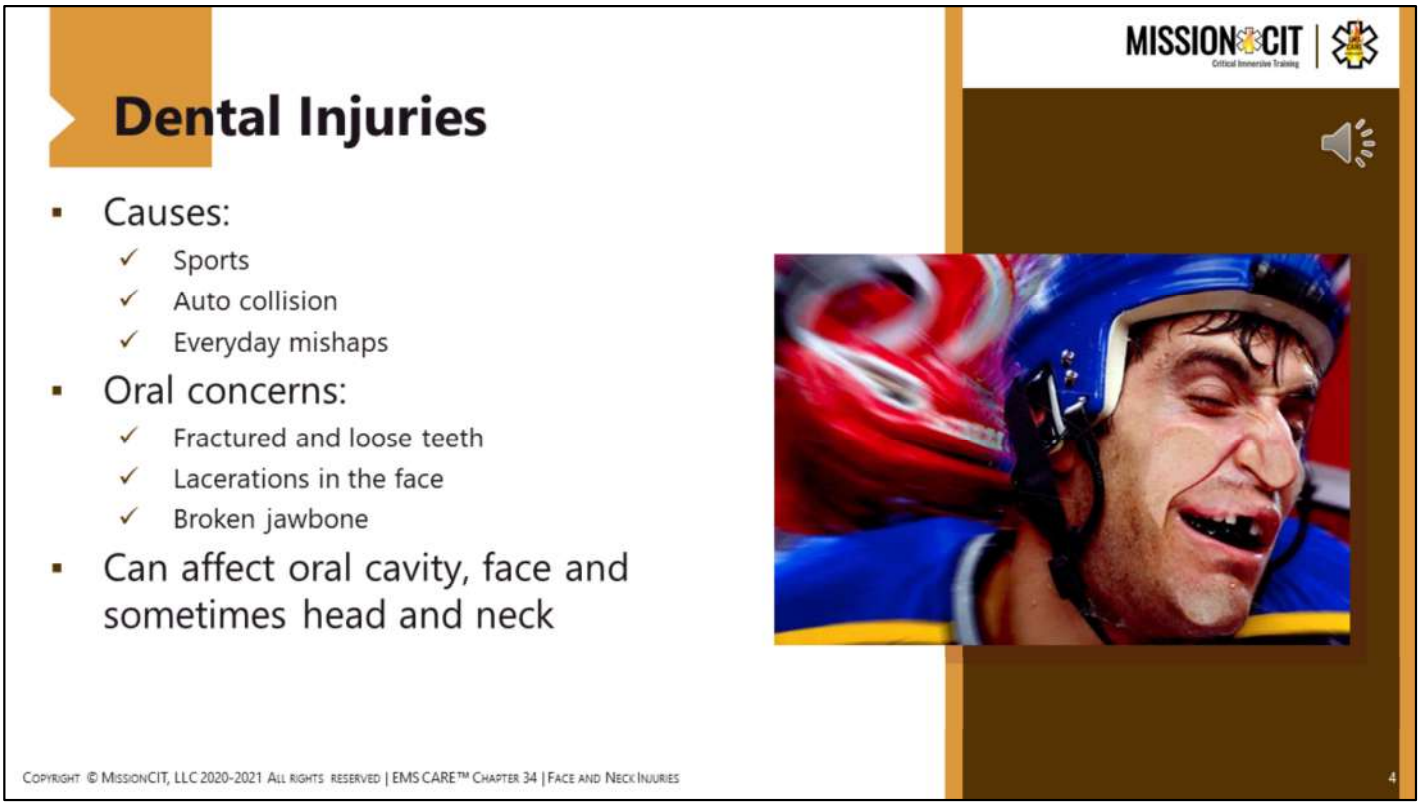
Facial injuries can impair breathing in several ways leading to partial or complete obstruction of the airway. Fractures or avulsed teeth, broken dentures or bridgework, and foreign objects displaced into the airway must be removed. Facial fracture segments may be sufficiently displaced to compromise the airway. In addition, facial bleeding can contribute to aspiration and respiratory obstruction.

Patients with combinations of burns and fractures of the upper and lower jaws; fractures of the nose, maxilla, and mandible; or fractures of the mandible that result in significant bleeding into the floor of the mouth and neck all may have respiratory obstruction. Noisy respiration, stridor, hoarseness, drooling, inability to swallow or handle oral secretions, sternal retraction, and cyanosis all herald impending death from respiratory obstruction. Possible injuries to the brain and/or cervical spine may also interfere with normal respirations.



Skin is the first line of defense in any injury and thus is nearly always injured when trauma occurs. Although soft tissue injuries may not be the primary critical illness, they can contribute to the overall challenge of treating the patient. As with all injuries, it is important to clearly understand the mechanism so as to provide clues to the magnitude of the injury.

Soft tissue injury is common in both blunt and penetrating trauma. Soft-tissue injuries of the face and neck are very common since they are extremely vascular. Swelling in this area may be more severe as the skin and tissues in these areas have a rich blood supply. The wide range of injuries varies from simple superficial skin lacerations to extensive, complex facial trauma with bone and soft-tissue injury.



Injuries to the face, jaw, teeth, or the soft tissues of the mouth are common and may affect patients of all ages. These injuries, also referred to as oral and facial/maxillofacial trauma, can happen while playing sports, during an auto collision, or in everyday mishaps. Traumatic injuries can lead to a number of oral concerns for patients, ranging from fractured and loose teeth to lacerations in the face, and even a broken jawbone. Fractured and avulsed teeth are common following facial trauma. Teeth fragments can become an airway obstruction and should be removed immediately. Any collision between the face and almost any object can result in a traumatic dental injury (TDI). TDIs can affect the oral cavity, face, and sometimes the head and neck.

So, that's it for this Lesson. Justin will join you for the next on patient assessment. Good studying.