

SAQ 6

A 37 yr old female presents to your Emergency Department complaining of facial swelling and dental pain. She has seen a dentist 3 days ago and has been taking oral antibiotics. She has a history of diabetes and immediate penicillin hypersensitivity. She has been admitted to the Observation Ward with a diagnosis of a dental infection.

a. You have been asked to prescribe her i.v antibiotics as her drug chart has been lost. Outline your antibiotic regime (2 Marks)

1 Mark for:

- *Metronidazole 500mg iv bd*

1 Mark for either of:

- *Clindamycin 450mg iv tds*
- *Lincomycin 600mg iv tds*

b. List 8 potential complications of dental infections (4 Marks)

1/2 Mark each up to 3 marks from:

- *Pain*
- *Sinus involvement*
- *Gingival abscess*
- *Facial cellulitis*
- *Orbital cellulitis*
- *Ludwig's angina*
- *Cavernous Sinus Thrombosis*
- *Sepsis / Multi-organ dysfunction*
- *Infective Endocarditis*
- *Osteomyelitis*
- *Meningitis*

c. List 4 indications for referral of this patient to maxillo-facial surgeons (4 Marks)

1 Mark each up to 4 marks from:

- *Presence of collection requiring surgical drainage*
- *Systemic sepsis*
- *Significant co-morbidity precluding out-patient treatment*
- *Socio-economic - unable to afford dental follow-up*
- *Geographical - distance from services precludes dentist follow-up*
- *High likelihood of non-compliance with out-pt therapy*

Answers taken from eTG 'Spreading Odontogenic Infections'