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*Guide from Your Seattle Dentist:*

# Tooth Pain, Swelling, Broken Tooth: What to Do Next

**Seattle Met**  
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# Why This Guide Exists

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**Written by Dr. Harry Shin DDS**

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*This guide is for patients who are unsure whether their dental problem needs same day care. If you are in pain or worried, you are not alone. Many people delay treatment because they do not know what is urgent and what can wait. This guide is meant to help you decide your next step safely.*

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# When It's a Dental Emergency

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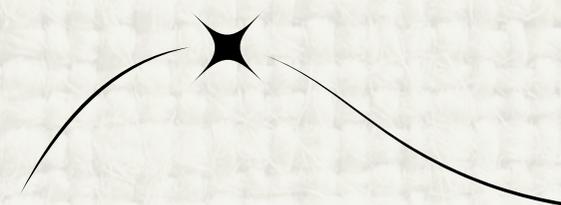
## IF YOU HAVE ONE OF FOLLOWING:

- THROBBING TOOTHACHE THAT'S WORSE AT NIGHT OR WHEN LYING DOWN
- FACIAL AND GUM SWELLING
- BAD TASTE, PUS, DRAINAGE FROM THE GUMS
- DIFFICULTY WHEN OPENING AND CLOSING
- FEVER WITH TOOTH PAIN
- TOOTH PAIN TO HOT

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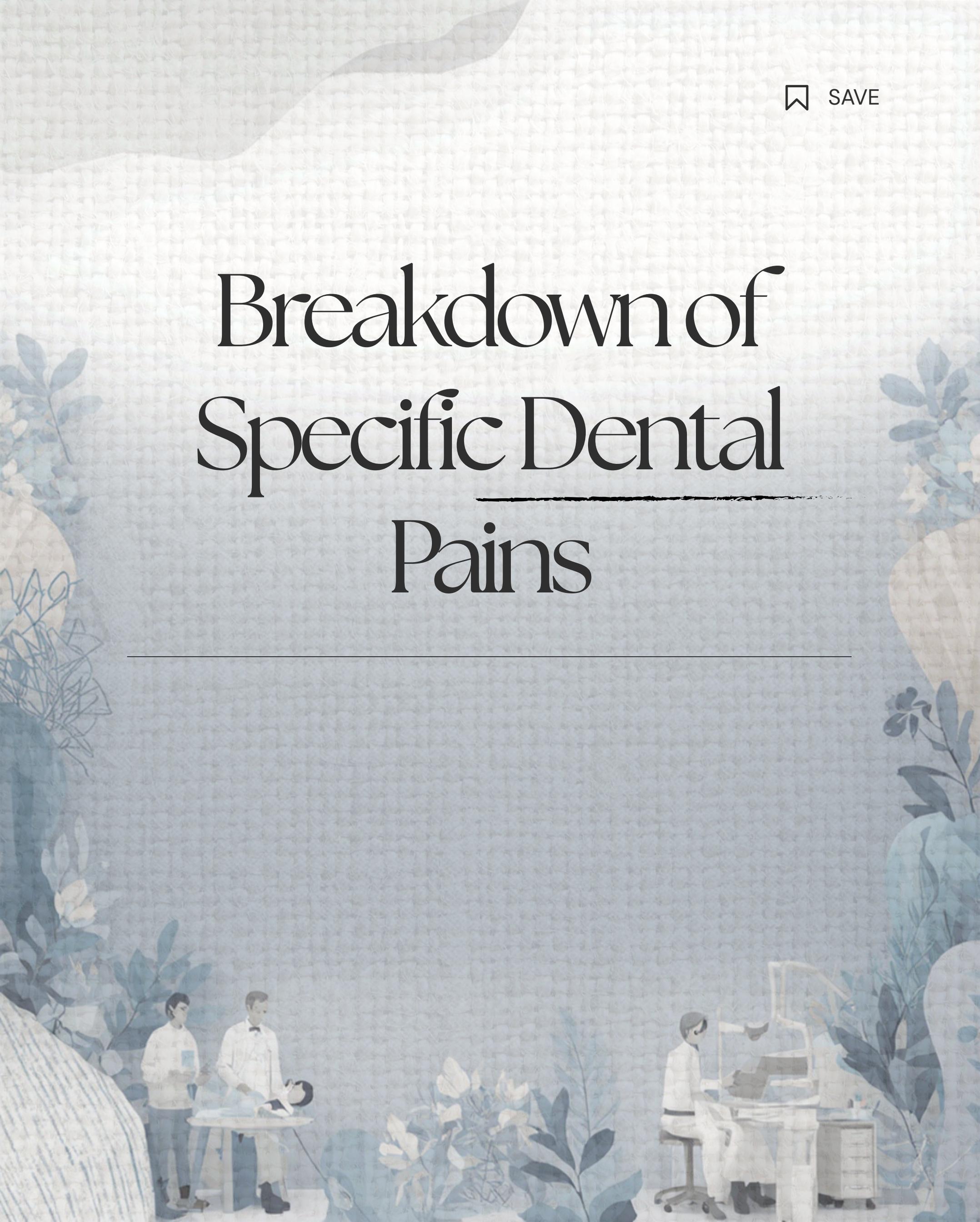
# Symptoms That Needs Evaluation But Can Wait



- MILD SENSITIVITY TO COLD AND/OR SWEETS
- CHIPPED TOOTH WITHOUT PAIN
- CHIPPED FILLING WITHOUT PAIN

# Breakdown of Specific Dental Pains

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# Pain to Temperature

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- **Tooth Pain to Hot/Cold**
  - **Lingering/pulsating** → tooth nerve is damaged due to cavities or trauma. SEE DENTIST ASAP
  - **Severe Pain then disappeared** → Most likely tooth has died and has an infection. SEE DENTIST ASAP
  - **Intermittent/occasional** → can be due to clenching, recession, cavities. Time for a check up.



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# Other Dental Pains

- **Pain to Sweet** → likely cavity forming.
- **Pain to biting down** →
  - Occasional and no sensitivity to hot and cold, monitor for couple weeks. Likely due to clenching or grinding.
  - Consistent pain upon release → tooth may be cracked and have an infection. See dentist asap
  - Pain upon release and to hot and cold → Tooth is likely cracked. See dentist asap



# About Dr. Harry Shin



Dentist in Downtown Seattle  
Dr. Harry Shin is a licensed dentist practicing in downtown Seattle at Moritis Shin Dentistry. He provides general, restorative, and emergency dental care with a focus on clear diagnosis, conservative treatment, and same day relief when possible. He believes dental care should be direct, transparent, and grounded in clinical evidence.

**Education:** New York University (Doctor of Dental Surgery), Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (General Practice Residency), University of Washington Affiliate Faculty, University of Michigan (Bachelor of Science)

**Recognitions:** Seattle Met Top Dentist 2026, Voted by Peer Dentists in to USA Top Dentists, Invisalign Gold Provider



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