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FROM ODONTOGENIC INFECTION TO MEDIASTINITIS: A LIFE-THREATENING SURGICAL EMERGENCY

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Introduction: Odontogenic infection is an infection of a tooth or surrounding tissues that may occasionally spread from the maxillofacial region into the deep neck tissues and extend to the mediastinum, causing mediastinitis. This life-threatening complication requires prompt diagnosis and timely surgical intervention.

Main Body: The infection can spread from the dental region to the deep neck tissues and then to the mediastinum. The main clinical manifestations include pain, swelling, fever, dysphagia, and, in some cases, difficulty breathing. Clinical evaluation of the patient and computed tomography (CT) are essential for establishing the diagnosis. Treatment involves surgical drainage, elimination of the source of infection, and antibiotic therapy.

Conclusion: Nowadays, despite the availability of modern antibiotics, mediastinitis caused by odontogenic infection remains a rare but severe complication. Early diagnosis and timely surgical intervention significantly reduce mortality.

Keywords: Odontogenic infection, mediastinitis, deep neck infection, diagnosis, treatment.