

# DAILY NEWS

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## Charlie Sheen's wife Brooke Mueller suffered from 'rare' medical nightmare: doctors

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Brooke Mueller (l.), wife of Charlie Sheen, added dental problems to the couple's recent spate of troubles when her impacted wisdom tooth escalated to a serious infection.

[Charlie Sheen's wife, Brooke Mueller](#), went in to have an impacted wisdom tooth removed and ultimately landed in the ICU with a 105-degree fever, being treated for double pneumonia and a systemic infection, according to People.

But the medical nightmare that the mom of two underwent this week is fortunately rare, dental experts say.

"The body has a great way of localizing infection and fighting it off," says [Dr. Timothy Chase](#), DMD. "But what could have happened here is that the body has potential spaces where infection can travel to. If a lower tooth gets infected, it could travel down into the space and cause a serious infection. You could even get a swelling that blocks your airway if it's not treated."

Mueller was hospitalized earlier this week and is now responding to antibiotics, according to People. Her mom, [Moira Fiore](#), told People that she had gotten sepsis from an infection following surgery, and that her organs had even begun to shut down. "Today, her lungs, kidney and liver functions look better," Fiore told People. "But doctors are still worried about her low blood pressure."

Meanwhile, Sheen was allowed to visit his wife in the hospital Thursday even though a protective order against him had been issued following a domestic violence arrest on Christmas Day. The judge who partially lifted the restraining order on Sheen agreed to postpone a modification hearing because of Mueller's medical problems.

For a wisdom tooth to get infected is not unheard of, says [Dr. Jonathan Levine](#), DMD, a dental specialist.

"Any time you have any cut in the mouth, there is a portal of entry for bacteria," he says. "And the bacteria can spread, especially if people are run down from a lot of stress. Then the immune response is not what it normally is, and this could spin out of control. It does get very frightening very fast."

Undergoing narcotic sedation for a dental procedure can increase the possibility of an infection, says [Dr. Steven Smullin](#), DMD, a head and neck surgeon.

"Then you can theoretically swallow or inhale secretions into the lungs and it's possible to develop pneumonia," he says. After any dental procedure, it's crucial to watch for swelling, Chase says. "You can have a small swelling and think it will go away, but then suddenly it is a very large swelling, which is a sign of infection," he says.

Still, he said, "Dental abscesses rarely turn into a systemic disease."