

The Removal of Wisdom Teeth

While the removal of wisdom teeth is quite common, it does not mean that the surgery is easy, or should be taken lightly. Wisdom teeth removal can be very simple or very complicated. The details of surgery are usually discussed at the pre-surgical consultation.

Recovery Period: Most patients having wisdom teeth removed will require some recovery time. The average varies from four to seven days following surgery. Simple extractions require less time. Difficult surgery may require more time.

Swelling and/or Bruising are common after removal of wisdom teeth. The swelling generally peaks after two to three days. It generally takes five to seven days to go away. This is normal part of the healing mechanism.

Discomfort and Pain. Pain is an individual thing, with great variation. It is usually well controlled with medication. The degree of pain depends on:

- a) the complexity of the surgery
- b) your general physical condition
- c) the presence of infection, prior to surgery,
- d) your adherence to post-operative instructions,
- e) your diligence in taking medications according to instructions.
- f)

Bleeding. Mild oozing of blood may occur for one to three days following surgery. This is a normal part of the healing process.

Stiff jaws are common for a week or so. Degree of opening may be limited.

Potential Complications

Numbness of the Lip, chin, tongue and teeth. Sometimes in spite of all precautions, certain nerves can be bruised or touched during surgery. The chance of temporary numbness is about four percent. Permanent numbness is rare, occurring two to three times in one thousand cases. Altered sensation can also occur.

Opening into the upper sinus. This is rare and generally heals on its own.

Adjacent teeth could be weakened. Large fillings or caps could be loosened. This is usually the result of having a wisdom tooth that is tightly positioned against the adjacent tooth.

Infection occurs rarely. It is more likely when infection has been present prior to surgery. Food entrapment in the wisdom tooth socket can also cause infection. Antibiotics are prescribed if infection occurs; in most cases no further treatment is required.

I have read the above information and understand the procedure and associated risks. I consent to have Dr. _____ remove the following teeth _____.

Patient Signature _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Date _____