



## WISDOM TOOTH EXTRACTION

At The Practice we pride ourselves on ensuring our patients are well informed on their dental health and treatment options. This information sheet is aimed to give you general information and risks involved with procedures. Your dentist will be able to identify your specific risks and benefits. As always our providers will endeavour to manage any undesired outcomes for you and perform procedures with the highest level of safety and care for you.

### WHY DO WISDOM TEETH NEED EXTRACTION?

Wisdom teeth usually erupt when you are in your late teens or early twenties and are usually the last teeth that come through the gums. Often the space for these teeth to grow into is limited and this causes the wisdom teeth to become impacted. The impaction can cause problems to the neighbouring teeth and difficulty with keeping the area clean and they're required to be removed.

Removal can at times be performed by a general dentist under local anaesthetic or at times it is required to be completed with a specialist surgeon. If a general anaesthetic is required or a preference for you then a referral will be provided to you.

### RISKS AND COMPLICATION ASSOCIATED WITH WISDOM TEETH EXTRACTION

The methods and procedure involved in wisdom teeth extraction can vary but commonly involve surgical removal. Your dentist will explain any alternative treatment options and the possible risks and complications involved with the procedure.

It is common to experience some swelling, bruising and pain and this is a normal experience post-operatively. There are risks involved as with many dental procedures. This includes the possibility of numbness and altered feeling in the lips, chin and/or tongue, commonly this is temporary but on rare occurrence it may be permanent. I am also aware of the risk of infection, jaw joint tenderness and/or limited ability to open my mouth.

Fillings or crowns on the adjacent teeth can sometimes be damaged during the procedure and may need repairing or replacement and I understand this may include extra charges. Removal of upper wisdom teeth that are located close to sinuses can lead to a communication being created between the sinus and the mouth or roots being displaced into the sinus, this may require an additional procedure for its repair, and I understand that this will incur extra charges.

- **Pain:** Post operative pain is to be expected and commonly occurs at the site of tooth removal and surrounding soft tissues such as gum cheeks lips and under the jaw line. Pain can also occur in the jaw due to irritation of the nerves and the movement of the joint(TMJ) during the extraction. This pain is usually temporary and can often be treated with most over the counter pain medications.
- **Dry Socket:** A dry socket can occur when the blood clot does not correctly form, or is dislodged after treatment. The bone underneath the gum can be exposed to air, bacteria and/or food and become painful usually 2-3 days after the procedure. Smoking can largely increase the risk of a dry socket and it is advisable to cease smoking for 48 post surgery. Dry sockets can be reviewed and treated separately with your dentist.
- **Infection:** The remaining socket can become infected and must be kept clean to reduce the

risk of infection. This is likely to resolve completely once treatment is undertaken but if infection continues to occur it can usually be treated with antibiotics.

- **Tooth Fracture:** It is possible that during the extraction, the tooth may fracture, particularly at the root. The remaining fragment of the root may be left in place if the dentist deems it too risky to remove such as where it may lie close to a nerve.
- **Nerve Damage:** During the extraction, the underlying nerves may lie close to the tooth that requires to be extracted. Despite all precautions being taken, the nerves can be damaged and numbness or loss of feeling can occur. The effects of this are normally temporary if the nerve is irritated during surgery, but can be permanent if significant damage occurs to the nerve. Areas that can be affected by this include the lips, chin, cheeks and tongue and surrounding teeth. Your dentist will discuss your x-rays and 3D scans with you to determine your level of risk.
- **Adjacent teeth fillings or crown Damage:** While precautions are taken to reduce damage adjacent teeth can sometimes be damaged during the procedure and may need repairing or replacement and I understand this may incur additional charges.
- **Sinus-Mouth Communication:** Removal of upper wisdom teeth that are located close to the sinus floor can lead to a communication between the sinus and the mouth. This may require an additional procedure for its repair, and I understand this will incur additional charges.
- **Fracture of bone:** Behind your upper wisdom teeth there is a section of bone called the maxillary tuberosity. In some cases this bone is particularly thin and can fracture off during tooth removal, your dentist will discuss your level of risk. Bone fragments can be normal with dental extractions and generally will cause little to no issues but can delay your healing.

#### **OTHER RARE RISK FACTORS TO CONSIDER:**

Due to the nature of the procedure, I understand that there are some rare risk factors including:

- Jaw fracture
- Damage to the temporomandibular joints
- Damage to the adjacent teeth
- Tooth displacement

I, \_\_\_\_\_ have read the above information and had the opportunity to ask the dentist any questions and have received satisfactory explanations regarding the procedure and risks involved.

I have also been given the option of seeing a Specialist Oral Surgeon for this procedure.

I agree to give my consent to have \_\_\_\_\_ extracted.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Patient/Legal Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_