

Information for Patients

Surgical Removal of Wisdom Teeth

Maxillofacial & Oral Surgery

The Surgical Removal of Wisdom Teeth

Before your operation you will be asked to sign a consent form and we ask that you read it carefully. It means that you have understood what it is that we propose to do, and that you agree to have the operation carried out with the necessary anaesthesia. Please ask as many questions as you wish about your operation before you sign.

If it is to be under local anaesthesia you will be given injections similar to those used at your dentist for a filling.

The operation

The operation will involve a surgical procedure inside your mouth. We will probably need to cut the gum. If your tooth is impacted we may also need to remove some bone around it to get it out more easily.

After the operation

You will probably have some discomfort after the operation. As well as swelling, you may experience difficulty in opening your mouth wide and bruising which may last for up to a week. You may require some painkillers and occasionally antibiotics will be prescribed.

In many instances the lower wisdom tooth or its roots are very near a nerve so that even with the greatest care, you may have some 'pins and needles' feeling or tingling sensation or numbness in your tongue or lower lip after the operation.

This usually goes within a matter of weeks, but in rare cases can take longer (up to 18 months). In exceedingly rare cases it might be permanent.

You may notice some blood in your saliva afterwards but this is normal. If the bleeding persists you may need to bite on a small pack of gauze to stop it.

Because of the discomfort and swelling you may wish to eat a fairly soft diet for a few days.

You may have stitches put into your mouth. These are dissolvable and do not need to be removed.

Depending on how many teeth are removed, it could be up to a week before you feel well enough to return to work.

Remember, the Maxillofacial Surgery Team are here to help.

If you have any problems please ring the following numbers:-
01633 – 238372 or out of hours the 'on call' Maxillofacial SHO on:-
01633 - 234234

Notes or further instructions:-
