

WHAT ARE WISDOM TEETH?

Wisdom teeth (also called third molars) usually do not push through the gums until people are in their late teens, twenties or even older. They are usually the last teeth to come through and are at the back of the mouth. Not everyone has wisdom teeth, but for those of us that do, they often cause problems and need to be removed.



WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I AM HAVING PROBLEMS WITH MY WISDOM TEETH?

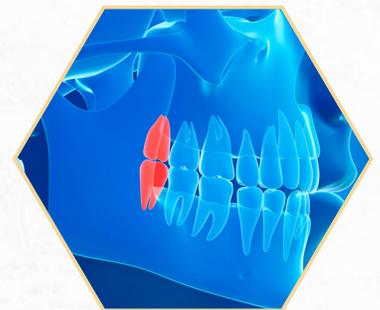
We will organise an x-ray of your jaws and examine your wisdom teeth. We can then advise you whether they are likely to need extraction and how to make them more comfortable in the meantime. Sometimes wisdom teeth will settle down if they can push through the gum completely.

If there is not enough room for them to push through, if you are having orthodontics or if your wisdom teeth are causing repeated problems then we will discuss your options to have them removed. If they need to be removed then it is better to have them removed when young and before the problems get worse or affect other teeth.

WHAT PROBLEMS DO WISDOM TEETH CAUSE?

Common problems caused by wisdom teeth include:

- Decay affecting the good tooth in front.
- Pain due to pressure on the other teeth or because of infection.
- Infection in the gum around the erupting wisdom tooth which can cause pain, swelling and jaw stiffness.
- Wisdom teeth may push the other teeth out of alignment causing crowding of the front teeth.
- Wisdom teeth may bite into the cheek causing painful ulcers.
- In some extreme cases, if a wisdom tooth is not removed then a sac of fluid can form around the In tooth which can destroy bone and damage other teeth and the gums.



HOW ARE WISDOM TEETH REMOVED?

Removing troublesome wisdom teeth often requires a surgical procedure during which the tooth is freed from the surrounding bone. The tooth may have to be divided into segments so that it can be removed easily and safely. Afterwards the gum is often closed with dissolvable stitches.

Once we are happy with everything and we have gone over the aftercare instructions, then you can go home.

DO I NEED TO BE ASLEEP TO HAVE MY WISDOM TEETH REMOVED?



About half of the wisdom teeth which we remove are taken out in our clinic using a powerful and long acting local anaesthetic to thoroughly numb the area. This allows us to painlessly perform the procedure while you are awake.

If your wisdom teeth are more difficult or you really don't like the idea of being awake while they are removed, we will remove them while you are asleep under sedation. We provide this service in our clinic with an anaesthetist looking after your sedation, all the proper monitoring equipment and staff to perform this service safely.

HOW WILL I FEEL AFTER I HAVE HAD MY WISDOM TEETH OUT?

This will depend on how many wisdom teeth you are having taken out and how difficult they are. It also varies from person to person. We will discuss this with you during your initial consultation after examining your wisdom teeth and x-rays. We will give you instructions on how to take care of yourself after surgery and, if you follow these closely, then recovery is usually uneventful.

We recommend that someone drives you home after surgery. If you have had sedation then it is essential that someone drives you home and stays with you for the rest of the day. Once home, you should rest for the first 24 hours and apply ice packs to reduce swelling and pain. We may recommend that you take several days off work, school or other duties.

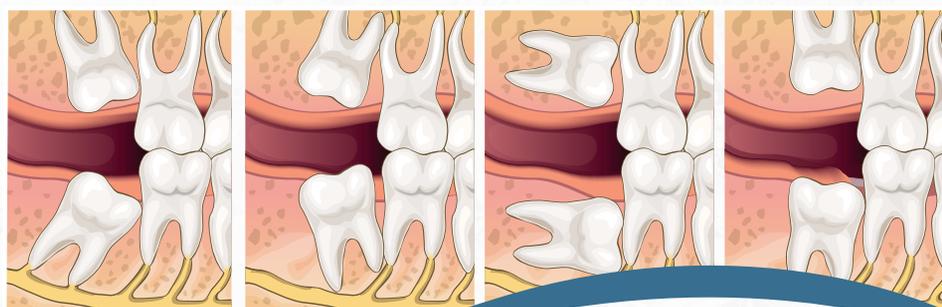
Alcohol should be avoided while taking pain killers or antibiotics and smoking should definitely be avoided especially in the first 24 hours after surgery. You will naturally favour soft foods. We will ask you to keep your mouth clean with mouth rinses and gentle tooth brushing.

We will advise you on appropriate pain relief, both when and how to take them so that your mouth is comfortable while it heals. Sometimes we will need to give you antibiotics.

It is usual to get some swelling after having lower wisdom teeth removed and sometimes some bruising. This is a normal part of the healing process and is obvious between days two and five after surgery.

Bleeding is not usually too much of a problem but we give you instructions on what to do if it occurs.

We will also give you our contact number if you have any concerns out of hours.



Impacted teeth



Post Operative Healing

“Complications... can be avoided by following aftercare instructions carefully.”

ARE THERE ANY RISKS WHEN REMOVING WISDOM TEETH?

Wisdom tooth removal is like any other surgery and has risks. Complications do not happen often and most can be avoided by following our aftercare instructions carefully. If we suspect that you have a high risk of any particular complication then we will discuss this with you at your initial consultation.

Complications include:



- Numbness or altered sensation to the lips or tongue. Impacted lower wisdom teeth may be close to nerves which, if pinched during tooth removal can cause numbness or tingling to the lips, cheek or tongue. This is usually temporary but as nerves are slow to heal, it may take several months to resolve. In rare cases, the nerve may not heal completely and numbness or altered sensation may be permanent.
- A dry socket can occur if the blood clot which forms in the socket is washed away or dissolved. This causes a constant throbbing pain which may last for days.
- Infection occasionally happens during the healing process and is treated with antibiotics.
- Pain or discomfort when opening the mouth is well controlled with modern pain relief. The need to take pain killers decreases in a few days as the swelling goes down.
- Excessive bleeding is a rare complication of wisdom tooth extraction and can be stopped by applying pressure with the sterile dressings which we will give to you as part of your aftercare instructions.
- We try to avoid stretching your lips while extracting your wisdom teeth but sometimes it is unavoidable. If you get sore lips then a moisturising cream will get them better quickly.
- Damage to nearby teeth or fillings is rare but can happen.
- The upper wisdom teeth roots are close to the sinuses. Extracting the wisdom tooth can create an opening between the sinus and the mouth which usually heals quickly without infection. Very rarely more treatment is necessary.
- If you have sedation then the anaesthetist will discuss this aspect with you. Modern anaesthesia is safe with few risks. However, a few people may have serious reactions to them.
- Very rarely weakness of the jawbone may occur.

Diamond Dental Care & Implant Centre is dedicated to promoting a high standard of quality in both dentistry and customer care. We have created a relaxed and inviting environment for you to visit and a comfortable and enjoyable workplace for us to work in.

Our priority is to achieve and maintain your dental health. We take great care in helping you understand any treatment in terms of benefit to you as well as time and costs involved.

If there is anything that you wish to discuss with us, please call us on (07) 5477 0889. Alternatively you can send us a question by email from info@diamonddentalcare.com.au at any time.

We look forward to seeing you!

