

# PARTIAL EXTRACTION THERAPY

Partial extraction therapy is the process where the crown of a tooth is removed, and the root or part of the root is left behind to help preserve the bone and gum tissue.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What are the benefits of partial extraction therapy?

- The benefit of intentionally leaving a portion of the tooth in the jawbone is to preserve the jawbone and gum tissue where the tooth will be extracted. When a tooth is extracted, the gum and bone surrounding that tooth shrinks. This often results in a bony defect that may prevent replacing the tooth with an implant. In areas where the tooth is visible while smiling or laughing, the loss of gum and bone will not look natural.

### 2. How is partial extraction done in the dental office?

- Before the surgery, your dentist will plan what portion of the root will be left in place. The crown of the tooth will be removed first.
- If an implant is planned to replace the tooth, the root will be sectioned vertically, and a thin slice of the root will be left attached to the jawbone. This technique is called Socket Shielding. The placement of an implant helps maintain the bone and gum shape.
- If the tooth is to be replaced with a bridge, your dentist will only remove enough of the root to allow proper closure of the tissue after the extraction, leaving most or all of the root submerged below the gum tissue. This technique is called Pontic Shielding which also helps to maintain good bone and gum contour.

### 3. What are the risks of partial extraction therapy?

- There may be some discomfort and mild swelling after the procedure, but rarely more than would be experienced with a complete extraction.
- Occasionally, the retained portion of the root may become infected and require antibiotic treatment, a second surgery, or removal.
- The remaining root segment might need to be removed, if the gum tissue shrinks and exposes the root piece.
- If the root piece becomes loose, it may need to be removed in the future.

### 4. Are there alternatives to partial extraction therapy?

- The entire tooth can be extracted, although more bone and gum shrinkage will be expected.
- In some cases, the immediate placement of an implant may help preserve the gum and bone, although this is not as predictably successful as partial extraction therapy.

