

WISDOM TOOTH REMOVAL

A wisdom tooth is considered to be impacted when it cannot erupt completely in the mouth due to a lack of room.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. When is an impacted wisdom tooth removal indicated?

- If there is an associated:
 - Infection
 - Cavity
 - Cyst or tumor
 - Destruction of the adjacent tooth and bone.
- If your dentist predicts future problems. Most people eventually need to have an impacted wisdom tooth removed.

2. What are the risks of having an impacted wisdom tooth removed?

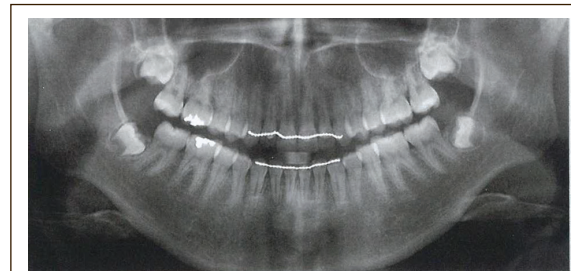
- Damage to the nerves that carry feeling to the face which is usually temporary but may on rare occasions be permanent.
- Damage to the adjacent tooth and its supporting tissues.
- Fracture of the jaw.
- The area where the tooth was removed may become infected or develop into a painful condition called a Dry Socket.
- Surgical complications and slower post-operative healing tend to increase with age.

3. What are the alternatives to having an impacted wisdom tooth removed?

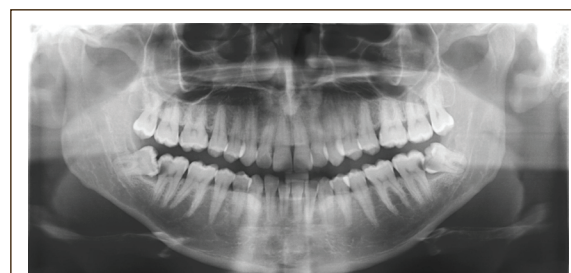
- When there is a high risk of nerve damage during its removal it may be possible to remove part of the tooth in a procedure called a coronectomy.
- Monitor the wisdom tooth over time for changes in appearance.

4. What may happen if an impacted wisdom tooth is not removed?

- A cavity may occur in the wisdom or adjacent tooth.
- Infection of the overlying gum called pericoronitis. This may be associated with severe pain, a foul taste and the inability to open or close the lower jaw.
- The formation of a cyst around the tooth with the risk of possible infection and resulting pain and swelling.
- Continual inflammation around the adjacent tooth and the consequent destruction of its supporting bone or resorption of its roots.
- In certain cases, there may be no negative effects.



Wisdom teeth with no root formation



Wisdom teeth causing cavities on adjacent teeth



Wisdom teeth with an associated cyst