



The Troublesome Wisdom Tooth Your wisdom teeth are the last teeth to emerge from your gums. This usually happens during your late teens or "the age of wisdom", which gives them their name. Often there is not enough room for them in the jaw. They may become trapped, or impacted, in the jaw bone and gums, and remain partly or fully

Why do We Remove Impacted Wisdom Teeth ? The gum around an impacted tooth may become infected. This may cause severe pain, swelling, jaw stiffness or even general illness. An impacted tooth may decay even though it is not visible in the mouth. This can cause pain. It may also damage adjacent healthy teeth or push them out of position. You may have had trouble already and been advised to have your wisdom teeth removed. If you wait until they do cause trouble, you may have to be treated for pain and infection, before they can be removed. Problems with wisdom teeth tend to get worse as you get older. Removing them is easier when you are young. Healing will also be quicker.

What Should You Expect After Removal of Impacted Wisdom Teeth ? The removal of an impacted wisdom tooth is not a simple extraction. It is a small operation. Some bone may need to be removed to allow removal of the tooth. Stitches are often needed too. As with any other operation you must expect some pain afterwards. Your face will probably be swollen for a few days. You may also have some stiffness in your jaw joints. This is just the body's way of protecting the healing gum against too much movement. It may make eating and swallowing difficult for a while. Sometimes there will be some bleeding afterwards. We try to be sure this has stopped before you go home. You may also have some bruising on your face. This is nothing to be concerned about. It will disappear in a week or ten days. The amount of discomfort and how long it lasts varies. If your teeth are removed with an injection in the mouth you should expect to be uncomfortable for at least a day or two. If you have your teeth removed in hospital, there will be the added effect of the general anaesthetic. You may need a few days to rest and recover.

Sometimes Healing Takes A Little Longer. Someone is Always Available To Help If Needed

Are There Any Risks ? There are always some risks involved in surgery. Removal of wisdom teeth is no exception. The removal of a wisdom tooth leaves a socket in the bone to heal. Sometimes healing may be delayed if the blood clot in the socket is dislodged or washed away. This may prolong your pain. It can be treated to make it more comfortable for you if you contact us, or your dentist, for help. There are two nerves very close to your lower wisdom teeth, lower lip and side of your tongue. The greatest care is taken to protect these nerves while your teeth are removed. But sometimes they may be unavoidably injured, causing temporary tingling or numbness. It is rare for this to last more than a few weeks at most. It does not alter your appearance. In an extremely small number of patients, some or all, of the numbness may remain permanently.

You must balance these small risks against the benefits of removing your wisdom teeth. The decision to have your wisdom teeth removed is always yours. If your teeth pose any special risks these will be discussed with you. Any questions you may have will be answered as fully as possible.