



Risks

Sometimes the wisdom tooth can be growing near to the nerve that supplies sensation to the lip, tongue, cheek, chin and floor of the mouth. If this happens and the tooth has to be extracted there is a small risk of nerve damage, which can result in altered, or loss of sensation in the nerve. This is usually temporary.

Your dentist will discuss any possible risks with you.

After effects

You may experience the following after having a wisdom tooth out:

- Soreness
- Swelling
- Stiff jaw
- Bruising
- Altered sensation
- Dry socket



These side effects usually begin to resolve after a few days. A dry socket is a dull pain sometimes accompanied with a bad taste coming from the empty socket. Following your after care instructions will help to minimize the risk of this. You may need to take a couple of days off work after having your wisdom teeth out.

There is a small risk associated with having a General anaesthetic so wherever possible it is better to have a wisdom tooth out under local anaesthetic. You may have some dissolvable stitches to help with healing.

Keeping my wisdom teeth

If it is decided that it is better to keep your wisdom teeth even though they are impacted your dentist will carefully monitor them to check that they remain healthy and are not affecting the health of the tooth in front. It may be necessary to take x-rays from time to time.

Wisdom Teeth



What are they?

Wisdom teeth or third molar teeth are the last teeth to appear at the very back of the mouth, from your late teens onwards. Usually there are two upper and two lower wisdom teeth, though in some people one or more are absent and never develop.

Frequently there is not enough space for wisdom teeth to fully erupt into a good position and they can get stuck as shown on the x-ray above.



Problems and benefits of having your wisdom teeth taken out

Your dentist will monitor how your teeth and jaws grow as part of your regular care. He will be able to see whether your wisdom teeth are likely to become impacted.

What Problems Can Occur

Sometimes if wisdom teeth are impacted problems can occur such as:

- Gum Infection (pericoronitis)
- Decay in wisdom tooth
- Decay or periodontitis in tooth next door
- Cyst formation
- Abscess or cellulitis (due to infection)

Should I have them taken out?

Your dentist will advise you if it is necessary to have your wisdom teeth taken out based on National guidelines (NICE). If you are experiencing repeated episodes or severe pericoronitis it is likely the tooth may need to be extracted. Your dentist can take an x-ray picture to tell whether it is likely to be a difficult extraction and if so whether it is necessary to refer you to hospital. Mostly wisdom teeth can be taken out under a local anaesthetic but sometimes a general anaesthetic may be required. Your dentist will discuss this with you.

FAQ

My wisdom teeth never came through, should I be worried?

No, they may be completely buried in which case they are unlikely to be problematic, or you just may not have any. Your dentist can advise and monitor.

My wisdom teeth need to come out but I have hooked roots which are very close to the nerve, what should I do?

Your dentist can advise you but sometimes it is possible that you can have the crown of the tooth removed (usually in hospital) and leave the roots where they are. This can avoid the risk of nerve damage.

I keep getting a bad taste from my wisdom tooth and I think it is making my breath smell.

You should see your dentist who can assess what might be causing this and whether treatment is needed.

Contact us at The Elms dental Practice

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