

Stephen Kelso

dental implants | oral surgery

Impacted Wisdom Teeth

Please take time to read the information on these sheets. It is important that you understand the nature of the procedure we propose and it's associated benefits and rare complications. If you have any questions please ask your dentist.

We ask that you bring the attached signed consent form to your next visit.

Wisdom teeth often cause no problems. They are described as impacted when there is not enough space for them at the back of the mouth. Impacted wisdom teeth can cause pain, swelling, infection or damage to the teeth next to them. If the gum around the wisdom tooth is swollen the jaw may become stiff and sore. Infection at the back of the mouth can cause bad breath and a bad taste. The surgical removal (extraction) of one or more wisdom teeth can relieve these problems. However, removing the wisdom teeth does not usually improve crookedness or crowding in other teeth. People who have problems such as infection, cysts or tumours, tooth decay or gum disease around a wisdom tooth should think about having it removed. People who have impacted wisdom teeth that are not causing problems do not need to have them removed. Your dentist has advised that in your situation the removal of your wisdom tooth is indicated.

The operation:

Your tooth will be removed under local anaesthesia. This means that you will be awake, but the area around the wisdom tooth is completely numb. It is often necessary to make a small cut in the gum over the wisdom tooth, and to remove some bone so that the tooth can be lifted out. Stitches are usually put in to help the gum heal.

On occasions we advise that you have the procedure done in the local oral surgery department and your dentist will have discussed this with you.

What to expect afterwards:

Your jaw may feel stiff and sore, but painkillers will help to relieve discomfort. You may be given painkillers, antibiotics and mouthwash solutions to take home. Any pain, swelling or stiffness is usually at its worst two or three days after the operation and then gradually improves.

If dissolvable stitches have been used, they will disappear 7 to 10 days after the operation.

Side-effects and complications:

The extraction of wisdom teeth is a commonly performed and generally is a safe procedure. For most people, the benefits - treatment of pain, decay and infection - are greater than any disadvantages. However, in order to make an informed decision, anyone deciding whether or not to have this procedure needs to be aware of the possible side-effects and the risk of complications.

Side-effects:

These are the unwanted but usually mild and temporary effects of a successful procedure. Examples of side-effects include occasional bleeding from the gums, which can last 12 hours or more. There may also be some facial swelling, pain and jaw stiffness, which can last for several days.

Complications:

Complications are problems that can occur during or after the operation. Most people are not affected. The main possible complications of wisdom tooth removal are excessive bleeding during or soon after the operation and infection. Complications may require further treatment such as having another operation to stop bleeding, or antibiotics to treat an infection.

Specific complications of having wisdom teeth extracted are uncommon but may include accidental damage to other teeth. Occasionally nerves in the jaw can be damaged, either by the surgery or by swelling afterwards. This can cause temporary numbness or "pins and needles" in the lower lip or tongue after lower wisdom teeth have been removed. In a small number of cases (about 1 in a hundred) this altered sensation is permanent. The risk of complications depends on the exact position of the wisdom teeth, the type of anaesthetic used and other factors such as the person's general health. Your dentist will be able to explain how these risks apply to you.

Consent to Surgical Extraction of Wisdom Teeth:

I have read the information provided and understand to my satisfaction the treatment I'm going to receive, including the possible side effects and complications, and have had the opportunity to discuss this with my dentist.

I consent to the proposed treatment being carried out by Stephen Kelso BDS MFDS RCPS

Patients' Name: Printed.....

Signed.....

Date: