This documentation will give you a guide to removal of teeth so that you can make an informed decision whether to have the procedure done or not. Please feel free to ask your dentist or our team any further questions regarding the procedure.

**Reasons for removing teeth?**

* Tooth decay- A large amount of decay in a tooth can make it impossible to restore your tooth back to health.
* Periodontal disease- Teeth can present with painful infections that can eventually loosen the tooth/teeth.
* Trauma- An accident or injury, where a physical force has been applied to your tooth, can break the tooth beyond repair.
* Dental abscess- If bacteria destroy the inner workings of your tooth, infection will collect at the base of your tooth and sometimes root canal treatment may not be possible.
* Failed root canal treatment- If the treatment does not work, you can get infection and pain.
* Severe pain- All the above can cause severe pain. Even though saving your tooth may be possible, you may want immediate relief from pain and want the tooth removed.
* Over-eruption- A tooth can over grow and cause pain and damage to the cheek or gum.
* Orthodontic treatment- Space may be required so that other teeth can grow in straight.
* Medical reasons- If there is a risk that badly diseased teeth can spread infection through your blood stream.

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**Alternatives to removing teeth**

* Sometimes root-canal treatment may help to treat infection and pain.
* Depending on how damaged your tooth is, your own dentist may be able to rebuild it with a filling or crown.

**If you decide not to have the tooth removed**

Your symptoms may get worse or return. There is a risk of getting a serious, life-threatening infection. If you do not have the tooth removed before any other dental or orthodontic treatment, the treatment may not be possible.

**The Procedure and what it involves?**

* Confirmation of consent of the procedure and checking of personnel details. Please bring with you a list of recent medication.
* A Chlorhexidine mouthwash may be given for 2 minutes to reduce the risk of infection after the procedure.
* We will ask some questions and checks to make sure that you have come in for the right tooth and are happy for us to proceed further. Please help us by confirming your name, date of birth and the procedure that you are having. Also provide us with any changes to your medical history since you referral or any specialist information that would be helpful for the surgeons to know.
* Most teeth are usually easily removed under local anaesthetic. However some can be difficult to remove if they have a lot of decay, existing root-canal treatment, Long or curved roots, partial erupted into your mouth, abnormal position, fused to your jaw or if the tooth is lying close to a nerve or sinus.
* The procedure can take from 10 minutes to an hour, depending on how many teeth need to be removed and how difficult they are to remove.
* Tooth removal can involve cutting the gum to uncover your tooth, we may have to remove bone around your tooth and divide your tooth with a drill. We will discuss your procedure with you on the day of your appointment. The gum is closed off with stitches. The stitches are dissolvable. We may have to ask you to bite onto a gauze pack to stop any bleeding for about 10 minutes. Sometimes the stitches may not dissolve fully and may have to be removed by your own dentist.

**Complications-**We will endeavour to make the procedure as safe as possible but complications can happen. Some of these can be serious. Please read the list below, and we will be happy to answer any concerns that you may have.

* Pain can be related to the difficulty of the extraction. Simple painkillers and anti-inflammatory painkillers such as Paracetamol and Ibuprofen should alleviate any pain. Pain relief should be started before the numbness starts to wear off.
* Bleeding after the procedure.
* Infection. The extraction site may take longer to heal and you may need antibiotics.
* Dry Socket can occur a few days after the extraction and can involve severe pain. The risk of dry socket is higher with lower wisdom tooth removal or if you smoke.
* Retained broken roots. Sometimes it is not possible to remove the whole tooth and the dentist may decide it is safer to leave the root behind. However if this causes problems, you may need a larger procedure.
* Damage to nearby teeth. Sometimes nearby teeth can be loosened. These may also need to be removed if they do not firm up again. Fillings and crowns can also be loosened and may need to be replaced after healing as occurred.
* Sinus problems. Sometimes removing an upper tooth can cause an opening between the sinus and your mouth. This can cause infection (Sinusitis), pain and draining of fluid between your mouth and nose. The opening usually closes but you may need additional surgery to close the opening. Sometimes a tooth may get pushed into the sinus, again additional surgery may be required to remove the piece of tooth.
* Broken jaw.
* Trismus, is not being able to open your mouth fully and experiencing jaw stiffness. This is more common with lower wisdom tooth removal. Let your own dentist know if this doesn`t resolve within a couple of weeks.
* Damage to nerves that supply your lower lip and tongue. Lower wisdom tooth removal as a risk of permanent damage of less than 1 in 100. This leads to a loss of feeling in your lip or tongue. Any damage is usually temporary (risk: 1 in 10). However, it can take up to 18 months to recover. Only a small percentage of patients will not regain full sensation in their lip or tongue, between 1-4% after the first year.
* Bisphosphonate- associated osteonecrosis of your jaw, where your tooth socket does not heal properly. Let the dentist know if you are taking, or have ever taken, bisphosphonate medication, as this increases the risk of osteonecrosis. Usually patient`s with osteonecrosis will present with severe pain and the socket sites doesn`t heal properly.

**Recovery after the procedure-**The dentist will make sure you have stopped bleeding after the procedure. A responsible adult should take you home

If your wound starts to bleed, bite for 10-20 minutes on a pack of gauze, or on a clean handkerchief rolled into a small sausage shape.

**It can take up to two or three weeks to fully recover from the procedure. Most people will make a full recovery.**