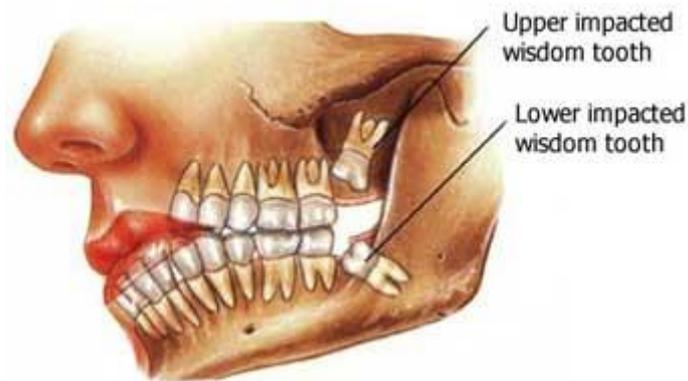


GAIN A LITTLE WISDOM ON WISDOM TEETH...

Wisdom teeth (or third molar's) do not push through the gums until people are in their late teens, twenties or older. They are the last teeth to 'erupt' or come through the gums. Most people have four wisdom teeth, some people have none. Often there is little space for the wisdom teeth to erupt easily through the gums. If there is not enough space, they become wedged or impacted. Some impacted wisdom teeth remain buried and cause no problems. However, other impacted wisdom teeth cause severe problems. If one or more of your wisdom teeth become troublesome, your Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon may recommend that they be removed. Removal of wisdom teeth is a very common procedure and a planned elective surgery is far better than an emergency operation!



PROBLEMS CAUSED BY IMPACTED WISDOM TEETH



Infection

When an impacted wisdom tooth starts to push through the gums, an infection can start around the top of the tooth. Infection and inflammation (swollen red gums) can cause pain, swelling & jaw problems.



Crowding

A wisdom tooth may push nearby teeth out of their correct position and may cause crowding of front teeth.



Cysts

Sacks of fluid called cysts can form around the tooth and may displace the tooth. The cysts can destroy bone and damage other teeth and gums.



Damage to nearby teeth

An impacted wisdom tooth may keep pushing against the molar teeth next to it. This often leads to serious damage to these teeth.

Upper wisdom teeth

These may push sideways out of the gum and cause an ulcer where it rubs against the inside of the cheek. It may also infect the maxillary sinus.

Food Trap

Food can become trapped between the wisdom tooth and the molar next to it. This can cause cavities, bad breath and ill health.

REMOVAL OF WISDOM TEETH

YOUR OPTIONS...

Your surgeon will recommend and discuss with you options for removal of wisdom teeth. He will advise you whether your wisdom teeth can be removed at Broadway Surgical clinic, or whether you require a private hospital admission; this will depend upon the difficulty of the surgery, your age and/or medical history.

Local Anaesthetic

This will numb the gums and area around the wisdom tooth and lower parts of the face.

IV Sedation with Local Anaesthetic

In addition to local anaesthetic a sedative is given intravenously by your surgeon.

General Anaesthetic

The patient is put completely to sleep by a specialist Anaesthetist and theatre team.

All of the above options can be performed at Broadway Surgical Clinic.

Getting ready for surgery - You will be given verbal and/or written instructions. Organise time off work or school as indicated by your surgeon.

After Surgery - Your mouth will be numb, you may experience some ooze or slight bleeding from the area and you may have stitches. You will be given verbal and written post-operative instructions and a follow-up appointment, so your surgeon can check the healing and remove any stitches. Most people will have swelling of the cheeks and some bruising which may last for several days. People also experience stiffness of the jaws. These are normal reactions and will resolve naturally. If excessive bleeding occurs contact your surgeon.

Post-operative care - Ice packs can be used to reduce swelling and pain. A diet of soft foods and lots of fluids is recommended for the first few days. You may be given a prescription for antibiotics and pain relief – it is important to take all medication as prescribed.

SIDE EFFECTS OF THE SURGERY

Removal of wisdom teeth, like all types of surgery, has risks. Complications can occur. If you have any concerns about possible risks or complications, always ask your surgeon.

Numbness or altered sensation - An impacted wisdom tooth may be close to nerves or touching a major nerve. When the tooth is removed, the nerve may become bruised; this can cause numbness and/or tingling to gums, cheeks, lips, chin, tongue and around the upper and lower jaw. As the site heals this gradually goes away. In a few cases the nerve may not heal completely and numbness or altered sensation may be permanent.

Sinus problems - The roots of the upper wisdom teeth are close to the sinuses. In some cases, a sinus may be opened when a wisdom tooth is extracted and other surgery may be required to fix this.

Dry socket - After the wisdom tooth is removed, a blood clot will form over the bone. This clot is important for healing and relief of pain. If this blood clot dissolves or is washed away, the bone will be exposed; this is called a 'dry socket' resulting in a constant throbbing pain. This can be easily treated.

Infection - An infection in the gum or bone is usually treated with an antibiotic. Tell your surgeon if you have drug allergies or reactions.

Healing - It is very important to maintain good oral hygiene. Gentle brushing around the extraction site/s and rinsing with warm salt water can help healing and reduce the risk of infection.