**Extractions & Minor Oral Surgery**

Commonly known as third molars; wisdom teeth are the last teeth to emerge and tend to come through between the ages of 17 and 25. For some people they erupt without any problems the same as all other teeth, but for others they can create a range of oral and general health concerns.

The main problem that occurs with wisdom teeth is when they become impacted. This means they have developed at an angle and become trapped either against other teeth or below the gum-line.

Not all impacted wisdom teeth cause pain alerting you to a developing problem. Only through regular oral health checks with the Forrest Avenue Dental Centre team can we detect when something has gone wrong.

It is estimated over 80% of wisdom teeth will need to be removed and as it is not possible to predict if or when they may cause a problem, it is advised to remove them earlier rather than later. Removal of wisdom teeth in older patients can be more difficult resulting in a longer healing period.

Removal of wisdom teeth is performed under a local anaesthetic or for unusual cases; you may be referred to an oral surgeon who elects to remove your wisdom teeth in hospital under a General Anaesthetic. In some cases, we could use intra venous (IV) sedation thus saving a hospital stay. Your dentist will only be too happy to discuss all the available options with you.

Prior to any treatment, it is vitally important you make us aware of any medication, either prescribed or over the counter, you may currently be taking. Please let us know if you are experiencing any general health problems or if you have an allergy to any medications.

Recovery will generally take a few days. You may experience some slight post-operative swelling. Over the counter pain relief medication is often all that is required to relieve any discomfort. A soft food diet is recommended for a few days.

**Impacted Wisdom Teeth**

**Post-operative healing**