



Information Concerning Removal of Impacted and Surgically Extracted Teeth

Some teeth are embedded or positioned in the jaw in such a way that bone surgery is necessary for their removal. This is especially true of impacted wisdom teeth. The removal of such teeth is quite different from the extraction of erupted teeth. The following conditions may occur, all of which are considered normal:

1. The area operated on will swell.
2. The swelling will reach its peak about 36 hours after the surgery. Inactivity and cold packs will significantly limit the swelling, as will ibuprofen.
3. Trismus (tightness) of the muscles may cause difficulty in opening the mouth.
4. You may have a slight earache.
5. A sore throat may develop.
6. Numbness around the corner of the mouth on the side from which the tooth was removed may develop. This is called "paresthesia" and is a temporary condition that will correct itself. It may persist for a few days to several months.
7. Your other teeth may ache temporarily. We refer to this as sympathetic pain and it is a temporary condition.
8. If the corners of the mouth are stretched, they may dry out and crack. Your lips should be kept moist with a cream or ointment.
9. There will be a cavity where the tooth was removed. This will eventually fill in with new tissue. Black and blue discoloration may occur on the outside of the face near the area of surgery. This occurrence is not unusual and will disappear within several days.
10. There might be a slight elevation in temperature for 24 to 48 hours. If this continues, notify us immediately.
11. Occasionally one or more sites may develop a "dry socket". This simply means that the blood clot in the socket has broken down and exposed raw bone. It is not necessarily an infection and may occur for a variety of reasons regardless of how careful you are. You may notice a sudden increase in pain or a foul smell or taste from the area. This is usually very easily treated.
12. Smoking after removal of teeth will not allow the area to heal as planned and discussed.