

### **Why are Teeth Removed?**

Teeth are extracted for a variety of reasons:

- Decay has reached deep into the tooth
- Infection has destroyed a large portion of the tooth or surrounding bone
- There is not enough room for all the teeth in your mouth
- Pain

### **How are Teeth Removed?**

Before a tooth is removed, your dentist will thoroughly review your medical and dental history and take the appropriate X-rays.

X-rays reveal the length, shape, and position of the tooth and surrounding bone. From this information, your dentist can estimate the degree of difficulty of the procedure and decide whether to refer you to a specialist called an oral surgeon.

### **How It's Done**

Before removal, the area around your tooth will be anaesthetised. Dentists use a local anaesthetic to numb the area of the mouth where the extraction will take place.

There are two types of extractions:

- A simple extraction is performed on a tooth that can be seen in the mouth. General dentists commonly do simple extractions. In a simple extraction, the dentist loosens the tooth with an instrument called an elevator. Then the dentist uses an instrument called a forceps to remove the tooth.
- A surgical extraction is a more complex procedure. It is used if a tooth may have broken off at the gum line or has not come into the mouth yet. Surgical extractions commonly are done by oral surgeons. However, they are also done by general dentists. The doctor makes a small incision (cut) into your gum. Sometimes it's necessary to remove some of the bone around the tooth or to cut the tooth in half in order to extract it.

During a tooth extraction, you can expect to feel pressure, but no pain. If you feel any pain or pinching, tell your dentist.

In cases for extremely nervous patients sedation may be used.

### **What to expect after an Extraction:**

It is critical to keep the area clean and prevent infection immediately following the removal of a tooth. Your dentist will ask you to bite down gently on a piece of dry, sterile gauze, which you must keep in place for as long as instructed by your dentist to limit bleeding while clotting takes place. For the next 24 hours, you shouldn't smoke or rinse your mouth vigorously. Follow your dentist's instructions.

A certain amount of pain and discomfort may be expected following an extraction. In some cases, your dentist will recommend a pain killer or prescribe one for you. You may also want to drink through a straw, limit strenuous activity, and avoid hot liquids. The day after the extraction, your dentist may suggest that you begin gently rinsing your mouth with warm salt water (do not swallow the water). If you have prolonged or severe pain, swelling, bleeding or fever, call your dentist at once.

## Risks :

Before you give your permission for the removal of teeth, removal of impacted teeth (those that are “buried” or beneath the gums), other dental treatment, or the administration of certain anaesthetics, you should understand that there are certain associated risks.

### Common risks include but are not limited to:

- Postoperative Pain
- Postoperative infection
- Postoperative bleeding that may require treatment
- Possibility of a small fragment of root being left in the jaw and its removal, requiring extensive surgery
- Damage to adjacent teeth or fillings
- As a result of the injection or use of anaesthesia, at times there may be swelling.
- Delayed healing (dry socket) necessitating frequent postoperative care

### Less Common Risks

- Drug reactions and side effects
- Jaw muscle tenderness or even resultant numbness of the tongue, lips, teeth, jaws and/or facial tissues that is usually temporary.
- Possible involvement of the sinus during removal of upper molars, which may require additional treatment or surgical repair at a later date
- Possible involvement of the nerve, including but not limited to the removal of lower molars resulting in temporary or possible permanent tingling or numbness, or pain of the lower lip, chin or tongue on the operated side. In rare instances, such numbness may be permanent.
- In rare circumstances, breakage of the jaw

There may be other rare complications not mentioned above. Please talk to your dentists about any concerns you may have when deciding upon treatment.

This information leaflet is intended to provide general information about the treatment. It is important for you to always discuss your treatment with your dentist, which will depend on many factors including age, condition and position of your teeth, as well as pre-existing conditions and the degree of the problem. Your dentist cannot guarantee treatment will be successful and it is important that you fully discuss treatment, all costs and the likely expected outcome. We encourage you to discuss in detail anything you are unsure of or are unhappy with about your teeth.