

INFORMED CONSENT THIRD MOLAR (WISDOM TOOTH) EXTRACTION

THIS FORM COMPLEMENTS AND EXPANDS ON THE INFORMED CONSENT FORM FOR BASIC ORAL SURGERY BUT SPECIFIES POSSIBLE RISKS OR UNWANTED COMPLICATIONS PERTAINING TO THE EXTRACTION OF WISDOM TEETH (THIRD MOLARS).

The dentist has explained whether or not the tooth or teeth he/she has proposed be extracted are impacted to any degree. understand that:

1. An impacted tooth may have begun to erupt or grow into the mouth in the wrong direction and may be blocked from fully coming in by bone and adjacent teeth.
2. Allowing impacted teeth to remain in place may result in infection and/or cyst formation which may destroy bone, damage the roots of adjacent teeth from pressure of the mal-positioned tooth or teeth and/or create a food trap which may increase the possibility of tooth decay.
3. Risks of not having the extractions performed, whether the tooth/teeth in question are impacted, partially impacted, or not impacted at all, include, but are not limited to, infection, swelling, pain, periodontal disease, malocclusion, systemic disease, and in rare instances, brain infection and death.

Possible risks or unwanted complications particularly related to third molar extractions include but are not limited to the following:

1. **Injury to the nerves** of the lips, the tongue, the tissues in the floor of the mouth, and/or the cheeks, etc. may occur while the dentist obtains access, removes bone or sections a tooth during the extraction process. Pressure or crushing action on nerves during the extraction process or other unwanted complications can cause numbness, tingling, burning, and loss of taste in the case of the tongue which may be of a temporary nature lasting a few days, a few weeks, a few months, or could possibly be permanent.
2. **Fractured jaw, roots or bone fragments:** There is a possibility, even though extreme care is exercised, that the jawbone, teeth roots or bone spicules may be fractured which may require referral to a specialist for treatment. Sometimes large third molars in conjunction with a small mandible can heighten the risk of fracture. Intermaxillary fixation (wiring the jaws closed following surgery) may be necessary to prevent or treat this complication. Treatment of a fractured jaw may involve surgery, placement of plates or screws to stabilize the bone, intermaxillary fixation as described and follow-up care by an oral surgeon. Temporary or permanent numbness of the lip may also be an additional complication of a mandibular fracture.
3. **Sinus involvement:** In some cases of upper third molar extractions, the root tips of upper teeth lie in close proximity to the maxillary sinus. During extractions, the thin bone and tissues surrounding the sinus membrane may be perforated or a tooth may inadvertently be forced into the sinus itself. Should this occur, it may be necessary to refer the patient to an oral surgeon to remove the tooth and/or have the sinus surgically repaired.
4. **Dry socket** can occur with increased frequency when third molars or wisdom teeth are extracted and is a result of a blood clot not forming properly during the healing process. Dry sockets can be extremely painful. Smoking, drinking liquids through a straw and not following post-operative recommendations can increase the chances of this complication.
5. **Infection:** No matter how carefully surgical sterility is maintained, it is possible, because of the existing non-sterile or infected oral environment, for infections to occur postoperatively. At times these may become serious. Should severe swelling occur, particularly accompanied with fever or malaise, this office must be contacted as soon as possible so you can receive the necessary attention. In some cases hospitalization and/or treatment with I.V. antibiotics may become necessary.
6. **Injury to adjacent teeth, fillings or porcelain crowns** may occur no matter how carefully surgical and/or extraction procedures are performed to remove erupted or impacted third molars. Fractured fillings or crowns may require replacement.
7. **Muscle or jaw soreness** may be noticed following third molar extractions. Pre-existing conditions affecting the jaw joints (TMJ) may be aggravated by third molar extractions as wide opening on the part of the patient is generally necessary. Clicking, popping, muscle soreness and difficulty opening may be noticed for some time following third molar removal surgery. If such symptoms or conditions persist, the patient should call our office. The patient must notify the dentist of any such pre-existing conditions prior to third molar extraction.

It is my responsibility to contact the dentist and seek attention should any undue circumstances occur postoperatively and I shall diligently follow any preoperative and postoperative instructions given me.

INFORMED CONSENT: I have been given the opportunity to ask any questions regarding the nature and purpose of third molar or wisdom teeth extraction and have received answers to my satisfaction. I have been given the option of seeking care with an oral and maxillofacial surgeon. I do voluntarily assume any and all possible risks, including the risk of substantial harm, if any, which may be associated with any phase of this treatment in hopes of obtaining the desired results, which may or may not be achieved. No guarantees or promises have been made to me concerning my recovery and results of the treatment to be rendered to me. The fee(s) for this service have been explained to me and are satisfactory. By signing this form, I am freely giving my consent to allow and authorize Dr. _____ and/or his/her associates to render any treatment necessary or advisable to my dental conditions, including any and all anesthetics and/or medications.

Patient's name (please print)

Signature of patient, legal guardian
or authorized representative

Date

Teeth to be extracted:

Witness to signature

Date