TeenCare

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Wisdom Teeth & Tooth Removal

Are you faced with having your wisdom teeth or tooth removed? Here are some important things to know. Common reasons for tooth removal include the showing of a wisdom tooth or a tooth that is badly damaged and cannot be fixed. Tooth removal is done using numbing medicine. Most pain disappears within a week.

Reasons for tooth removal

Wisdom teeth are the most frequently removed teeth. Common problems with wisdom teeth include **pericoronitis**, **caries, pulpitis** and **periodontitis**.

Pericorontis is a swelling of the tissue that surrounds a partially visible wisdom tooth. It is a common problem for young adults. About 95% of pericoronitis cases occur in lower wisdom teeth. As wisdom teeth are not needed for keeping a correct occlusion, or bite.

Caries, or tooth decay, is a common problem, particularly with wisdom teeth. If left untreated, caries can lead to pulpitis, which is a swelling of the dental pulp.

Pulpitis can cause aching pain in the tooth. It can reach the tooth pulp and lead to tooth root infection, also known as apical periodontitis, if left untreated. Tooth root infection is a common reason for tooth extraction.

Periodontitis damages the tissue and bone that support a tooth. This can cause the tooth to become loose. Removing and, if required, changing the tooth with prosthesis can be the only reasonable treatment option.

Other reasons for tooth extraction

Severe tooth and jaw **traumas**, **root fractures** and **cracks** are other reasons a tooth may be removed.

If a tooth is in a poor condition or increases the risk of infection, it may need to be removed proactively particularly before starting a **strong medication or undergoing a surgery**. Some medications for conditions such as cancer and rheumatoid arthritis weaken the body's defense system, and even minor tooth infections can then quickly spread and cause severe health problems.

See your dentist immediately if you are experiencing any tooth pain or noticed any redness or swelling in your gums.