

# Wisdom Teeth Removal • Dental Extractions



## Individualized Care

Wisdom teeth (third molars) are the last teeth in the mouth to develop, and often remain impacted or partially impacted due to lack of space in the orthodontically-treated mouth. Additionally, since modern-day oral care is better and people tend to need fewer teeth extracted, third molars often remain impacted in the non-orthodontically-treated mouth as well. Any impacted or mal-positioned third molar has the potential for concerns including: becoming a nidus for food impaction and thus infection. This can lead to localized bone loss and bacterial contamination, caries on unreachable surfaces of adjacent teeth, resorption of adjacent tooth roots, and peri-coronal infections which can lead to severe swelling, trismus, and even airway compromise.

Patients often ask, "Why do I need to have my wisdom teeth taken out?" It is recommended that the third molars are extracted during the teenage or early adult years, before the teeth are fully developed (approximately one-half to two-thirds root formation). During these years, the jaw bones are softer and more pliable, the teeth are still surrounded by follicular tissue, healing and recovery periods are shorter, and patients are generally healthier, making sedation safer. Most importantly, complications such as sinus communication and nerve damage occur at a significantly lower rate in patients under the age of 30. Despite what most believe, it is actually easier to extract the third molars before they have erupted into the mouth.

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In patients that have enough room for the third molars to erupt, it is often difficult to reach far enough back to perform adequate oral hygiene. Furthermore, the teeth are often mal-positioned and non-functional, leading to caries and periodontal issues. There is emerging evidence that periodontal disease can even lead to cardiovascular disease. Most people need at least one third molar extracted at some point in life, and this often ends up being in the later adult years if not performed prophylactically. All extractions occur in a sterile operating suite, with state-of-the-art monitoring equipment for those patients undergoing sedation.

Our board-certified oral and maxillofacial surgeons recognize the importance of third molar and other dental extractions to the overall health of a patient. We understand that while experience is important, quality of care is the top priority. We strive to give every patient the most comfortable experience possible, recognizing that even a simple tooth extraction may be a complex surgical event for that individual. Every patient is unique, and treatment is rendered as such, identifying the best treatment for each diagnosis presented. Our patient care team consists of an oral and maxillofacial surgeon, the referring provider, and the patient, as well as a team of experienced dental assistants and registered nurses. We communicate before and after every procedure to ensure successful recovery and positive outcomes.