

Why do teeth need removing?

The most common reason for tooth extraction is damage due to breakage, decay or infection, but there are many additional reasons for tooth extraction such as..

1. Severe Gum Disease
2. Impacted Teeth (more commonly found with wisdom teeth)
3. Orthodontics

How is an adult tooth removed?

The dentist will take an x-ray of the tooth that needs removing to look at the root anatomy and surrounding structures. The x-ray will help the dentist plan the best and safest way to remove the tooth

1. The tooth and surrounding area will be numbed with a local anaesthetic. The area will be tested several times to make sure it has become fully anesthetized before starting the treatment
2. The tooth is then loosened with small movements and pressure. Sometimes the tooth requires sectioning into multiple pieces, and then these loosened pieces are removed.
3. Once the tooth is removed, a dissolvable haemostatic sponge is placed into the socket and you will be asked to bite down on a sterile piece of gauze to control any immediate bleeding and to help form a clot. In some cases dissolvable sutures are required.

There may be cases where a 'surgical extraction' is required, most commonly for a tooth still under the gum or a tooth that is completely broken down, in this case gum and bone may need to be removed.

Sometimes a referral to an Oral Maxillofacial Surgeon may be required to have a tooth extracted due to its position and/or proximity to certain anatomical structures.

What are the risks and complications of removing an adult tooth?

Common risks and complications include:

1. Damage to lips and cheeks: you may bite or rub the numbed area without realising you are causing damage. Children need supervision until the numbness has worn off.
2. Short term minimal to moderate pain, including jaw pain and restricted mouth opening due to the irritation and/or inflammation of the surrounding tissues as well as the movement of the jaw during the extraction
3. Short term swelling
4. Infection
5. Bleeding
6. Dry socket: occurs when a blood clot is dislodged or does not form in the socket where the tooth was removed. A dry socket occurs if..
 - a. The bone underneath is exposed to air and food
 - b. The area is very painful and can cause a bad taste and/or odour in your mouth
 - c. If you continue to smoke
7. Temporary numbness.

Uncommon risks and complications include:

1. Prolonged or permanent nerve damages
 - a. A small percentage of people may, in spite of all precautions, experience partial or total loss of feeling in the area served by the nerves in close proximity to the extraction site.
 - b. Damage to these nerves or inflammation caused during or after the extraction can cause permanent or prolonged numbness or a tingling sensation to the lip, tongue, cheek, chin, gums or teeth
2. Bone or root fragments remain in your gum
3. Perforation of the sinus. Upper molars/premolars only.

What happens following the removal of my tooth?

The wound normally heals in 2 weeks and without complications. Problems may arise because the mouth is used for eating and speaking while healing is taking place. The mouth naturally contains many bacteria which may increase the risk of infection in the wound.

Following the removal of your tooth, the anaesthetic effect may continue for some hours. Your mouth may feel swollen and uncomfortable during this period. You can expect some pain because the tissues have been disturbed during the tooth removal. There may also be slight bleeding which is just enough to discolour the saliva for a few hours. There should be continual improvement until healing is complete.

What can I do to help prevent complications following the removal of my tooth?

You can help prevent complications such as pain, swelling, infection and bleeding by following a few simple points.

DO NOT

- Bite or suck a numb lip, cheek or tongue as you may injure yourself unknowingly
- Smoke or drink alcohol for at least 24 hours as it may delay healing
- Place fingers or any other object in the mouth to avoid injury or infection
- Be overly active for about 24 hours
- Rinse your mouth for about 24 hours

After 24 hours rinse your mouth gently with warm salt water.

What if complications arise after the removal of my tooth?

For any complications, questions or concerns please contact Clarity Dental Care immediately on 5973 5060 or after hours on 0485 864 755

In signing this form, I acknowledge that I have been given the full opportunity to ask any and all questions I might have about the treatment I am to receive at Clarity Dental Care. I agree that I have read and understand all the information supplied to me in regards to the treatment

Patient/Guardian _____ Date: _____