

## **MAXILLOFACIAL UNIT**

**01274 365200**

### **REMOVAL OF WISDOM TEETH**

This information is designed to answer some questions you may have regarding the removal of your wisdom teeth.

Wisdom teeth may be removed for the following reasons:

1. Infection, causing pain and swelling.
2. Decay.
3. The development of a cyst around the wisdom tooth.
4. If the wisdom tooth is in the area where other surgery needs to be performed.

Wisdom teeth may be removed under general anaesthetic or local anaesthetic (injection to “numb” the gum). During the operation it is often necessary to make a small cut in the gum which is stitched afterwards usually using dissolving stitches. Afterwards, your mouth may be stiff and swelling and soreness may develop over the next few days. You may also experience stiffness and pain in the jaws. Slight bleeding is also common at first. These symptoms usually improve in the first week, but the stiffness of the jaws may last longer.

After the operation you may be prescribed medicines if necessary.

Complications may occur but are rare. These include:

1. Infection in a socket. (Generally between 1-5%)
2. Tingling / numbness of the lower lip / tongue. This happens because nerves to the lower lip / tongue pass very close to the wisdom teeth roots and are occasionally bruised or damaged when the tooth is removed. This numbness usually disappears after a few weeks but occasionally lasts much longer. (In about 1 in 200 cases cases it may be permanent).

If you require any more information regarding your operation please contact the surgeon on:

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**(Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm)**

