

## Surgical removal of teeth

### Patient information

If you need this leaflet in a different language or accessible format  
please speak to a member of staff who can arrange it for you.

اگر به این بروشور به زبان دیگر یا در قالب دسترس پذیر نیاز دارید،  
لطفاً با یکی از کارکنان صحبت کنید تا آن را برای شما تهیه کند.

Jeśli niniejsza ulotka ma być dostępna w innym języku lub formie,  
proszę skontaktować się z członkiem personelu, który ją dla Państwa przygotowuje.

Dacă aveți nevoie de această broșură într-o altă limbă sau într-un format accesibil,  
vă rog să discutați cu un membru al personalului să se ocupe  
de acest lucru pentru dumneavoastră

如果您需要本传单的其他语言版本或无障碍格式，请联系工作人员为您安排。

إذا احتجت إلى هذه النشرة بلغة أخرى، أو بتيسيق  
يسهل الوصول إليه، يرجى التحدث إلى أحد الموظفين لترتيب ذلك لك.

Ormskirk Hospital  
Dicconson Way,  
Wigan Road,  
Ormskirk,  
Lancashire,  
L39 2AZ  
Telephone:  
01695 577 111

Southport Hospital  
Town Lane, Kew,  
Southport,  
Merseyside,  
PR8 6PN  
Telephone:  
01704 547471

## Surgical removal of teeth

## Notes

This leaflet is for patients who may need to have a procedure to remove a single tooth, or multiple teeth. It explains why they may need to be removed, what is involved and any risks or complications that there may be.

If you have any other questions that the leaflet does not answer, or would like a further explanation please ask.

### The problem

Your dentist has referred you, as they feel that the removal of your tooth is better taking place in a hospital environment.

### Why do I need treatment?

- The tooth is decayed and requires surgical removal.
- You have had repeated attacks of infection surrounding the tooth, which leads to pain and swelling.

## Special instructions

If anything is required specific to your treatment, it will be discussed with you on the day of your consultation.

## Other useful telephone numbers and contacts.

NHS 111

Stop Smoking Helpline  
(Sefton)

0300 100 1000

Stop Smoking Helpline  
(West Lancashire)

0800 328 6297

## For appointments

Telephone:  
01695 656 680

Email:  
soh-tr.appointments@merseywestlancs.nhs.uk

## What does the treatment involve?

It is often necessary to make a cut in the gum around the tooth and it is sometimes necessary to remove some bone surrounding the crown of the tooth, using a surgical drill and saline solution.

In some cases, the tooth needs to be cut into 2 or 3 pieces to remove it. Once the tooth has been removed, the gum is put back into place with stitches. In the majority of cases, these stitches are dissolvable and take around two weeks to disappear.

## What type of anaesthetic is used?

Local anaesthetic is used, which is an injection into the gum surrounding the tooth, similar to the injection you have had at your dentist for a filling. The injection takes a couple of minutes to numb the area and means that you will feel no pain while the tooth is being removed.

From time to time patients may experience a feeling of palpitations or their heart 'racing'. This is due to the adrenaline in the injection, however this feeling passes in a few moments.

## What preparation do you need to do?

It is important to have a light meal up to 2 hours before your treatment. You can drink fluids and take any medicines as normal, unless you have been instructed otherwise.

Do not drink any alcohol. You can drive yourself home if you feel safe to do so.

## What will happen when you arrive into hospital?

Once you have booked in at the reception desk, one of the nurses will introduce themselves and the team who will be treating you. There will be 2 nurses and 1 oral surgeon with you during the procedure.

Before the procedure takes place, the surgeon will take an up to date medical history and a consent form will need to be signed in addition to the one you signed at your consultation appointment.

At the end of the procedure a post operative instruction pack will be given to you, to take home to include direct numbers and emergency numbers. Once the procedure has been completed, you will be free to go home as long as you feel well enough to do so.

## How long does it take to remove a tooth and what can you expect to feel?

This is something which can change, as some teeth may take only a few minutes to be removed. More difficult teeth that need to be cut into pieces to remove, can take around 30 minutes or more.

We allocate 45 minutes per patient for their appointment and we try to keep waiting times down to a minimum, however please take into consideration that circumstances occur out of our control, which can cause delays.

We would therefore advise you to keep the morning or afternoon free for your appointment.

During your contact with us, it is important that you are happy with your care and treatment. Please speak to a member of staff on the ward, or department sister if you have questions or concerns.

## Matron

A matron is also available during the hours of 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. During these periods, the ward or department staff can contact the matron to arrange to meet with you.

Out of hours, a senior nurse can be contacted via the ward or department to deal with any concerns you may have.

## Infection control request

Preventing infections is a crucial part of our patients' care. To ensure that our standards remain high our staff have regular infection prevention and control training and their practice is monitored in the workplace.

We ask patients and visitors to assist us in preventing infections, by cleaning their hands at regular intervals and informing staff of areas within the hospital that appear soiled.

As a patient there may be times that you are unsure whether a staff member has cleaned their hands. If in doubt please ask the staff member and they will be only too happy to put your mind at ease by cleaning their hands again, so that you can feel reassured.

### **Will I need another appointment?**

Usually a review appointment is not necessary; however this will be decided on the day by the surgeon.

### **Who to contact if you have any further questions or concerns**

If you are worried or have any questions then please do not hesitate to contact the department and speak to one of the nursing team.

### **Maxillofacial unit**

Office:  
01695 656 966

Reception:  
01695 656 334

Your own dental practitioner.

Your procedure will be carried out under local anaesthetic, once you have had the injection the area will become numb. The surgeon will then test the area, to ensure you do not feel anything sharp. Pressure, movement and an awareness of what is going on is to be expected.

### **What can I expect after the procedure?**

You need to be careful not to bite the area whilst you are numb and to avoid hot food and drink, until the anaesthetic has worn off.

It is likely that there will be some discomfort and swelling, both on the inside and outside of your mouth after surgery. This is usually worse for the first three days, but it may take up to two weeks before all the soreness goes.

Painkillers that do not contain aspirin, for example paracetamol and ibuprofen are helpful to reduce swelling and pain. If you are unable to take these due to medical reasons, please tell the surgeon who will be able to provide an alternative.

You may also find that your jaw is stiff and you may need to eat a soft diet for a week or so. There may be some bruising of the skin on your face, that can take up to a fortnight to fade away.

### **Is there anything else I need to do after the extractions?**

It is important to keep the extraction sites as clean as possible for the first few weeks after surgery. It may be difficult to clean your teeth, around the site of the extraction. But it is important you brush gently and to keep the area free from food debris, by gently rinsing with warm salt water (dissolve a flat teaspoon of kitchen salt in a cup of warm water) 24 hours after your surgery, 3-4 times per day especially after food for 10-14 days.

### **Do I need to take any time off work?**

This differs with each person, but usually it is not necessary to take time off work apart from the day of the procedure. It is advisable to avoid strenuous exercise for four days.

### **What are the possible problems?**

Although there may be a little bleeding at the time of the extraction, this usually stops very quickly and is unlikely to be a problem if the wound is stitched.

Should the area bleed again when you get home, this can usually be stopped by applying pressure over the area for at least 10 minutes with a damp rolled up swab. Which will be given to you along with written post op instructions. If the bleeding does not stop, please contact the department or your own dentist.

If the blood clot inside the socket where the tooth used to be is lost, then what is known as a "Dry socket" can occur.

This is very painful and will require you to attend the department, or your own dentist for the socket to be rinsed out with saline and packed with a special antiseptic dressing.

We ask you to telephone rather than just arrive at the department, as we will have no access to your records and you may be kept waiting for some time or there may be no clinician in the department.

### **Removal of lower teeth**

There are two nerves, one of these nerves supplies feeling to your lower lip, chin and lower teeth, the other supplies feeling to your tongue. If these nerves become bruised whilst removing the tooth it can cause tingling or numbness in your lip, chin or tongue. The surgeon will tell you, if you are considered to be at an increased risk.

### **Removal of upper teeth**

There is a small risk when removing an upper tooth, that a communication may be made between the sinus and the mouth. If this happens this will be repaired at the time of the procedure.

If a communication is not apparent at the time of surgery but the surgeon feels you may still be at risk, full instructions will be given.