

## **ORAL SURGERY – PATIENT INFORMATION**

Examples of oral surgery procedures may include removal broken or decayed teeth, removal of retained roots of teeth, removal of impacted wisdom teeth, removal of soft lumps and bumps or surgical root canal treatments through the apices of teeth. The removal of teeth is by far the most common procedure.

The following information is generic and may not necessarily be relevant to the procedure that is planned for you. We fully expect that your appointment will go very smoothly.

### **Before your appointment**

Your allocated time is an **ARRIVAL TIME**, and not necessarily the time that you will be treated. There are a number of arrangements that are required before your treatment can commence, so please arrive on time. In contrast to dentistry, oral surgery appointment times are unpredictable, as different procedures vary greatly in the time taken to perform. Given the nature of oral surgery and the need to see emergency patients in addition to booked patients, your visit including the waiting time may take up to 2 hours, but is normally much quicker. Please therefore be prepared to wait for some time before you are invited into the clinical area and bring some light entertainment with you.

Have a light meal before you arrive, unless instructed otherwise. As long as your medical history allows it, and if you've used the medication before with no concerns, please take 400mg of Ibuprofen approximately one hour before your appointment time. If you are unable to take Ibuprofen, that does not matter and the surgeon will discuss alternatives with you when you arrive.

You should inform the surgeon of any allergies you have and any medical conditions you have ever been diagnosed with, even if you believe that they are not relevant to your oral surgery treatment.

Take all your regular medications as normal, unless instructed otherwise.

Bring a list of any medications that you take, and if you have had any blood tests within the few days prior to your appointment, bring the results with you.

Patients having treatment under local anaesthetic alone may drive to and from their appointments.

### **Before the procedure**

The surgeon will see you and make a full assessment and discuss everything with you. You must take this opportunity to ask all questions that you may have. You must ensure that you understand everything before agreeing for the surgical procedure to proceed.

### **The procedure**

Most oral surgery procedures can be completed within 45 minutes.

You will initially be made numb with a number of small scratches in the gum as necessary. The surgeon will first ensure that you are completely numb before embarking on the procedure. It is normal to feel a substantial amount of pressure and pushing, however it is not sharp and does not hurt. If it does, then you must inform the surgeon so that the numbness can be maintained.

Sometimes, opening the gum may be necessary to access the site of surgery. This feels no different. A machine that vibrates and sprays water may then be used. Once the procedure is completed, the gum will be placed back in position with stitches. Unless informed otherwise, you can assume that dissolvable stitches have been used, so there would be no need for you to return to have them removed.

## **Dental Implants**

If replacing an extracted tooth with a dental implant is something that interests you, please inform the surgeon prior to the procedure, as it will necessitate a slightly different surgical technique.

## **After the procedure**

The surgeon will not discharge you until satisfied that there are no concerns such as bleeding. You will be provided instructions on how to take care of your mouth during the healing phase.

It is common to expect a small degree of discomfort after the procedure, which is normally readily controlled with simple painkillers such as Ibuprofen and Paracetamol. Swelling, bruising and stiffness of the jaw are not uncommon.

## **Potential risks and complications**

Complications are rare and therefore should not be expected, but it is important to recognise that they are possible. As is the case with any intervention, the risks and benefits must be carefully considered prior to proceeding with surgery. Unless specifically advised to the contrary, you should expect your procedure to be completed uneventfully with minimal complications.

Procedures involving lower teeth may rarely cause trauma to a nerve that runs through the lower jaw and supplies the lip, chin, gums and tongue with feeling. This may result in an altered sensation of any of these areas, which could be anything ranging from numbness, tingling, pins and needles, or even pain. In most cases, the feeling returns to normal eventually, but very rarely, the effect may be permanent. The surgeon will discuss this in more detail with you, including the relative chances of it affecting you in particular. In the greatest majority of people, it is reasonable to expect that nothing untoward will happen at all.

Procedures involving upper back teeth may affect your sinuses, which lie just above the teeth. Sometimes, a small opening occurs between the mouth and the sinus, which tends to heal spontaneously depending on its size. If it doesn't, it can be managed with another small surgical procedure involving stretching the gum across the opening. Teeth fragments could potentially slip through the opening into the sinus. If this very rare event occurs, then it would necessitate an onward referral to our ENT colleagues for retrieval.

Operating on a tooth requires leaning on the adjacent tooth. If this is heavily restored or has a crown, or is decayed and fragile, then there is a susceptibility for the tooth to fracture or the restoration to be dislodged, requiring you to return to your dentist for further management.

Working on your back teeth involves stretching your lips so it is not uncommon for them to be a little sore or chapped after the procedure. A little Vaseline will help.

As is the case with any surgical procedure, anywhere in the body, infections are possible. If this occurs, we will make sure it is treated. Smokers and patients on particular medications may have delayed healing and susceptibility to infections. The surgeon will discuss the relevance of this to you.

The tooth socket in the jaw bone corresponds exactly to the shape of the tooth. Over the few weeks after the tooth is removed, the bone will remould to change its shape. Rarely, this remodelling results in small edges of bony spicules to appear in the socket that are often confused by patients to be tooth fragments. They are not and usually fall off, but if they become a particular irritant, the surgeon could flick them off for you.

## **Contact**

If you have any queries, feel free to contact Oral Surgery Ltd, preferably via [oral-surgery-ltd@dentallymail.co.uk](mailto:oral-surgery-ltd@dentallymail.co.uk) or alternatively on 03301229382. To enhance convenience and access to healthcare for patients, Oral Surgery Ltd hires dental chair space from a number of existing dental practices where our care is provided. Whilst you will be seen at a dental clinic, you are not their patient and will remain a patient of Oral Surgery Ltd. Please therefore do not contact the hosting practice with any enquiries as they will not know who you are and do not hold a file for you. All enquiries should be directed to Oral Surgery Ltd via the contact details provided.

Please visit our website and Facebook page to access detailed information and to explore the wider range of services we offer.