

Surgical Extractions

Information for Patients or Carers

Paediatric Department

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This information is for parents or carers of children having dental surgical extractions at St George's Hospital. It explains why your child might need this procedure, what it involves. It also tells you about any risks.

Why is this necessary?

Surgical extractions (removals) are carried out on:

- whole teeth that are impacted (trapped) under the jaw are unable to erupt (break through) properly
- roots of teeth that are broken down buried underneath the gum.

How is this done?

This procedure is usually carried out under general anaesthetic. This means that your child will be "asleep" for the operation. Local anaesthetic will be used whilst your child is asleep, so this area will feel numb and swollen to them when they wake up.

The Paediatric surgeon (Ms J Johnson) will make an incision (a cut) into your gum. Any bone lying over the top of the tooth will be removed to expose the tooth. The tooth will then be loosened and removed. The gum is then repositioned and secured with dissolvable stitches. You will be able to go home approximately 90 minutes after waking up.

What happens afterwards?

- After the operation your child's mouth is likely to feel sore and tender for a few days and you will be advised to administer painkillers.

- It is important your child keeps cleaning their teeth as usual but obviously to take care around the operation site. We advise rinsing with hot salt mouthwashes and /or Corsodyl mouth wash.

What are the risks?

As with any type of surgery certain problems can occur. The risks associated with this procedure are:

- Infection – the area may become red, swollen and tender after the operation. This may occasionally indicate an infection and you should contact the department for advice. You may need to take a course of antibiotics.
- Very rarely the nerve that supplies the feeling to the lip can become damaged causing temporary or permanent numbness to the lip (lower teeth).
- No rinsing of the mouth should be carried out until 24 hours after the procedure as this can cause bleeding. If bleeding occurs, damp cotton pads should be placed over the extraction site and pressure applied for 10 minutes.

A general anaesthetic requires that your child is starved for 6 hours before the operation and therefore will not be able to eat any food on the morning of the date you are given. Only a sip of water can be given at 6.30. Unfortunately if this is not adhered to your child's operation will be cancelled.

Any Questions?

If you have any questions or worries, please contact us on telephone **020 8725 1629** or **020 8725 0429**.

We hope that your child's dental health will be assured in the future.