

PATIENT INFORMATION

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Removal of Impacted Canines

Introduction

The canines, or eye teeth, normally erupt into the mouth between the ages of 11 and 13. Sometimes, one or both canines develop in the wrong position and become impacted. The majority impact towards the roof of the mouth (palate) behind the front teeth but some impact on the cheek side (buccal).

What is meant by impacted?

A tooth that is prevented from erupting into its normal functional position by bone, tooth or soft tissue.

How does it happen?

Upper canines are the last teeth to come through and are therefore more likely to become impacted. It can be caused by missing lateral incisors which provide lack of guidance to the canine, lack of space for eruption due to crowding and in some cases there is a family history.

Diagnosis

Diagnosis is by clinical and radiographic (x-ray) examination. Radiographic examination usually involves taking 2 radiographs (x-rays).

Treatment Options

- Leave the impacted canine as it is and accept the appearance. There is a small chance that the canine could cause problems in the future by damaging the neighbouring teeth or by formation of a cyst.
- Surgical removal of the impacted tooth. This involves a short operation, often under general anaesthetic. This is done as a day case procedure meaning that you can go home that day. The gum needs to be lifted up so that the tooth can be identified and removed. Afterwards there will be some stitches between the teeth. The mouth will be a little uncomfortable for a few days up to a week. Usually normal painkillers such as ibuprofen and/or Paracetamol are sufficient.
- Exposure & bonding of the tooth to bring it into the correct position. This may not be possible if the tooth is in a difficult position.

Your surgeon and/or orthodontist will advise you on the best treatment option.

Additional information can also be obtained by logging on to

<http://www.baoms.org.uk.sitemap.asp?id=20>

Other web links – National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research Patient.co.uk

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