

Patient information

Expose and bond of an unerupted tooth

What is this procedure?

'Expose and bond' is a surgical procedure on an unerupted tooth, it is used by dentists and orthodontists to guide the tooth into a functional position. The unerupted tooth will be surgically uncovered and a small gold button and chain will be stuck onto it. At a later date the gold chain will be attached to your brace and the orthodontist will use it to gently pull on the tooth and guide it into position.

Why would I need this procedure?

If your tooth has not erupted, because of its position it may be unlikely to erupt on its own. Occasionally the position of the tooth may cause damage to the roots of adjacent teeth if left in situ. Rarely cysts can form around unerupted teeth.

What are the alternatives?

There are always options, these will be explained to you before you consent to this treatment. They may include:

- Leaving the tooth where it is and having an x-ray by your dentist periodically to monitor any changes.
- Having the tooth surgically extracted.

What are the potential risks and side effects?

- **Pain and swelling** - it is likely that there will be some discomfort and swelling after the surgery.
- **Bleeding** - The wound will be closed using resorbable stitches which will reduce the risk of post-operative bleeding, but as with all surgical operations there is a risk of some bleeding during or after surgery.
- **Infection** - as with all surgical procedures there is a risk of developing infection. You will be given advice on how to look after the area and what symptoms to look out for.
- **Smoking** - it is important that you avoid smoking for at least 72 hours before and up to a week after this procedure, as smoking will increase the risk of bleeding and infection.
- **Unsuccessful result** - there is always the possibility that the tooth will not move despite the best efforts of the surgeon and orthodontist, this is usually because the tooth has become fused to the bone.

What are the expected benefits of treatment?

- To move the unerupted tooth into the line of the arch, improving the look and/or function of your teeth.
- To remove a potential risk of damage to roots of adjacent teeth.

Will I have an anaesthetic?

At your initial consultation the surgeon will discuss your individual situation and decide with you whether you have this procedure under local or general anaesthesia.

If you are having it done under General anaesthesia you will be asleep throughout. You will also be given a local anaesthetic so the area will feel numb when you wake up.

If you are having the procedure done under Local anaesthetic you will need to eat and drink prior to the appointment and the area will be numbed using a dental injection, but you will be awake throughout the procedure.

How will I feel afterwards?

The extraction site will feel numb because of the local anaesthetic; you may also feel swollen and bruised. You will have resorbable stitches to close the wound, these will dissolve in ten to fourteen days. You will also probably have a stitch holding the gold chain against your gum so that it does not dangle in your mouth. Your orthodontist will take this stitch out when they shorten and attach the chain to your braces.

Some people can feel nauseous after a general anaesthetic.

How long will I be in hospital?

For General anaesthetic patients normally come into hospital on the day of operation and go home two to four hours after the procedure. You will need someone to collect you and stay with you for the first night.

For local anaesthetic the procedure will be done in the outpatients department and you will be able to leave immediately. The procedure usually takes approximately forty minutes.

How soon will I be able to resume normal activities?

This depends on the person and the type of job or study that you do. Most people will need a few days off before resuming you normal activities.

It is important not to drive or operate machinery for 48 hours after having a general anaesthetic.

Consent

Although you consent for this treatment, you may at any time after that withdraw such consent. Please discuss this with your medical team.

Who do I contact if I need help

Maxillofacial Unit: Conquest Hospital Tel: 0300 131 4500 Ext: 773207
Maxillofacial and Orthodontic Unit: Eastbourne DGH Tel: 0300 131 4500 Ext: 771756

Out of hours help

In an emergency, go to your nearest Emergency Department (A&E).

Important information

The information in this leaflet is for guidance purposes only and is not provided to replace professional clinical advice from a qualified practitioner.

Your comments

We are always interested to hear your views about our leaflets. If you have any comments, please contact the patient experience team on 0300 131 4784 or esh-tr.patientexperience@nhs.net.

Hand hygiene

We are committed to maintaining a clean, safe environment. Hand hygiene is very important in controlling infection. Alcohol gel is widely available at the patient bedside for staff use and at the entrance of each clinical area for visitors to clean their hands before and after entering.

Other formats

If you require any of our leaflets in alternative formats, such as large print or alternative languages, please contact the Equality and Human Rights Department on 0300 131 4434 or esh-tr.AccessibleInformation@nhs.net

After reading this information are there any questions you would like to ask? Please list below and ask your nurse or doctor.

Reference

The following clinicians have been consulted and agreed this patient information:

Mr C. Surwald – Maxillofacial Consultant

Mr M. Shastri – Maxillofacial Consultant

Dr F Pantanali - Consultant Orthodontist

Dr A Ahmad – Consultant Orthodontist

The directorate group that has agreed this patient information leaflet:

Diagnostic, Anaesthetic and Surgery

Next review date: June 2027

Responsible clinician/author: Julia Cousins, Hannah Williams

© East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust – www.esht.nhs.uk