

## Extraction of teeth under general anaesthetic

### Removal of tooth or teeth under general anaesthetic

When a tooth or teeth are deemed un-restorable it becomes necessary to extract them.

### What are the alternatives?

The alternative to surgery is to leave the tooth/teeth in place with no treatment, however, a decaying tooth can cause a number of problems including:

- Repeated attacks of infection around the tooth which causes swelling and pain.
- Food packing in or around the tooth.
- The tooth becoming surrounded by a fluid filled sack called a cyst.
- Bad breath caused by the bacteria from the decaying tooth.

### 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 and is most evident during the first three days.
- **Bleeding** - as with most surgical procedures there is a risk of bleeding from the operation site during and after surgery.
- **Infection** - this may develop after an extraction even if none was evident prior to the surgery.
- **Dry socket** - this can occur when the blood clot within the healing socket is disrupted, and most commonly occurs two to five days following extraction. The risk is significantly increased if you smoke, either before or after surgery.
- **Damage to a nearby tooth or filling** - when a tooth is removed the tooth or filling next to it may occasionally become loosened or broken, which will require repairing by your dental practitioner at a later date.

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

### What are the expected benefits of treatment?

- To prevent further episodes of infection
- To eliminate pain.

### What should I do before I come into hospital?

- Please avoid smoking for at least 72hrs before your operation, as this will increase the risk of infection and dry socket.
- If your operation is in the morning, have nothing to eat after midnight. You may continue to drink water only up to 06.30am on the day of admission. If your operation is in the afternoon, have nothing to eat after 07.00am and water only until 11.30am.
- Please bring any medication that you are currently taking into hospital with you.

### Will I have an anaesthetic?

Yes the operation will be carried out under general anaesthetic. This means you will be asleep throughout the operation.

## How will I feel afterwards?

Local anaesthetic is also used during surgery, so you will wake up feeling numb around your mouth. You may also feel swollen and bruised. Some people feel nauseas. Painkillers will be provided for the first week.

## How long will I be in hospital?

Patients normally come into hospital on the day of operation and go home two to four hours after the procedure. If you need more time to recover you might be advised to stay in the hospital overnight. You will need someone to collect you and stay with you for the first night.

## What should I do when I go home?

You will be given advice and full written instructions with contact numbers if you should need advice before leaving the hospital.

## Will I have to come back to hospital?

Most patients do not need to come back to hospital for a follow-up appointment.

## When can I return to work/college?

It depends on the person, the type of procedure and the type of job or study you do. Most people need at least two days off, one week is usually recommended. It is important to remember that you will not be able to drive or operate machinery for 48 hours after having a general anaesthetic.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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## Reference

The following Maxillofacial consultants have been consulted and agreed this patient information:  
Mr C Surwald and Mr M Shastri.

The directorate group that have agreed this patient information leaflet:  
Diagnostic, Anaesthetic and Surgery - Planned Care.

Next review date: June 2025  
Responsible clinician: Anita Lacey Staff Nurse  
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