

MF03lite Removing Teeth

Expires end of December 2019

A more detailed version of this procedure specific information sheet is available. Please ask your health practitioner at Joondalup Health Campus for a copy.

Write questions or notes here:



**HEALTH CONSUMERS'
COUNCIL**
YOUR VOICE ON HEALTH

This document will give you information about removing teeth. If you have any questions, you should ask your GP or other relevant health professional.

Why do I need to have a tooth removed?

There are many reasons why you may need to have a tooth removed, such as tooth decay, gum disease and trauma.

Are there any alternatives to removing a tooth?

Simple painkillers such as paracetamol can help control mild pain and antibiotics can help with infection.

Sometimes root-canal treatment will help to treat infection and pain.

Depending on how damaged your tooth is, your dentist may be able to rebuild it with a filling or crown.

What does the operation involve?

Most teeth are removed under a local anaesthetic that is injected around your tooth to numb it. However, removing a tooth can sometimes be difficult. The operation can take up to 40 minutes.

Your surgeon will loosen and remove your tooth with instruments (see figure 1).

Sometimes removing a tooth can involve cutting the gum to uncover your tooth, removing bone around your tooth and dividing your tooth with a drill.

What complications can happen?

1 General complications

- Pain
- Bleeding
- Swelling and bruising
- Infection

2 Specific complications

- Dry socket
- Retained roots
- Damage to nearby teeth
- Sinus problems
- Broken jaw
- Not being able to open your mouth fully (trismus) and jaw stiffness
- Damage to nerves
- Osteonecrosis, a rare condition where tissue in your jawbone starts to die

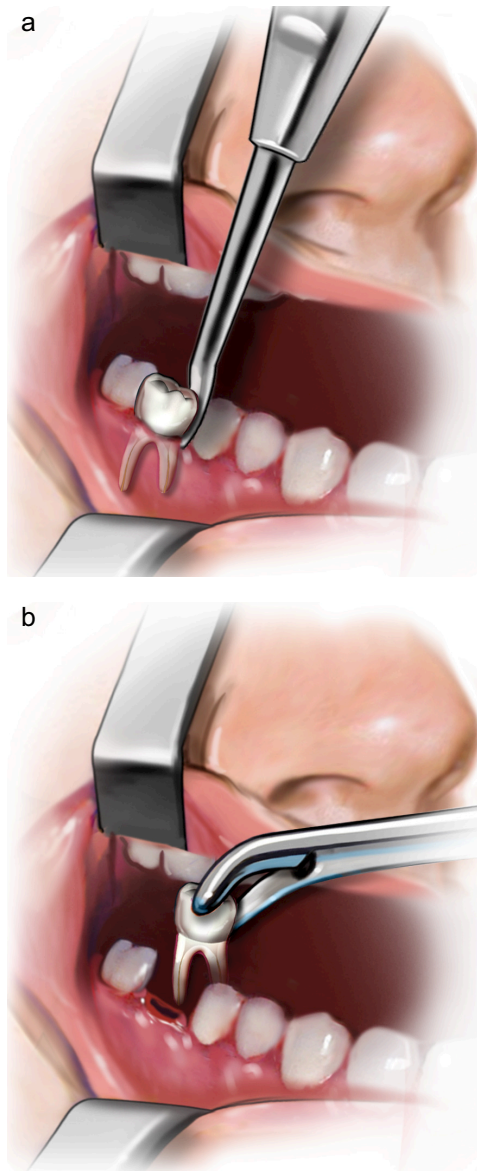


Figure 1

a An elevator is used to loosen the tooth

b Forceps are used to remove the tooth

How soon will I recover?

After the operation your surgeon will make sure that any bleeding has stopped. You should be able to go home the same day.

Try to leave the wound alone for one to two days. Then rinse your mouth gently with hot, salty water four times a day for the next two days.

To reduce the risk of swelling and bruising, do not exercise, drink alcohol or have a hot bath for one to two weeks. You may need to take up to a week off work.

Most people make a full recovery.

Summary

Teeth can sometimes cause serious problems. Removing a tooth is usually a safe and effective way to prevent your symptoms from coming back.

Acknowledgements

Author: Mr Andrew Sidebottom FDSRCS FRCS
Illustrations: Medical Illustration Copyright © Nucleus Medical Art. All rights reserved. www.nucleusinc.com

This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you.