

Wisdom Teeth Complications

Van N Sproul, D.D. S. | Lankhanh D Nguyen, D.D. S. | Comfortdentallivermore.com

Swelling and bruising

The most common complication experienced is swelling and/or bruising of the surgical area. The swelling or bruising may be noticeable around the cheeks and the jaw area. Remember, you are getting your wisdom teeth extracted so don't be surprised if you do see some swelling and bruising.

Not every case of wisdom tooth is the same. Some are definitely more complicated than others, particularly when the wisdom teeth are deeply impacted. On the other hand, some are pretty simple procedures where, patients experienced no swelling or bruising. Being a teenager with wisdom teeth that are not horrendously impacted can lead to you having a much better experience without any swelling. There are cases where teenagers experience a lot of swelling because they have highly impacted teeth coming in at all crazy angles with very little space in their jaws.

Infection

Another thing that is on our consent form is possible infection requiring further treatment. Any time you do get a wisdom tooth, or even another tooth extracted, you must keep the area as clean as possible. We always go over post op instructions with you including the things that you need to do to make sure that you do not get an infection. For example, avoiding certain foods that have little seeds (like strawberries) that can get stuck in your sockets can help prevent infection. It is extremely important that when getting your wisdom teeth extracted, you follow the post op care instructions to make sure that you do not get an infection.

Dry Socket

Unfortunately, sometimes when patients do everything that they possibly can, they can still get dry socket. There are some things though that you can do to prevent or minimize the risk of dry socket. Patients who experience dry socket are usually smokers or they do not follow their post op instructions. For example, we advise not using straws post operatively and being gentle around the socket areas to allow the blood clot to form. Our team provides you with detailed post op instructions to make sure that you heal properly and do not develop dry socket. Hopefully, dry socket is something you do not experience! If you asked me what percentage of patients experience dry socket, I would probably say approximately 5% of our patients. The most common cause of it being that they are smokers.

Damage to adjacent teeth

Another potential complication is the risk of damage to adjacent teeth, especially those with large fillings or caps. If you have numerous big cavities in your mouth, there is always a chance that the tooth next to the wisdom tooth being removed might experience some damage. We will look at your x-rays and let you know about the risk factors that you may have of this potentially happening.

Bleeding

Bleeding is also mentioned on our consent form. Obviously after the procedure you will lose some blood. Once the procedure is completed, we insert gauze and advise you to bite down hard to make sure the blood is clotting before releasing you. Patients might have some gauze in their mouth when they get home and see a little bit of blood on the gauze. Do not be alarmed. That is actually totally normal. Minor bleeding is not a potential risk factor or a complication that's going to arise from the procedure, as it is inevitable that some bleeding will occur. Incomplete removal of tooth fragments. Based on your 3D scan, there may be certain areas of the tooth root that very close to the nerve. Also, if your root formation is very curved or what we call dilacerated, you might have potential surgical

complications. It is possible that we might leave a part of that tooth in, letting you know that it was not the safest thing for you if we were to remove that little tooth fragment right next to the nerve. We inform our patients after reviewing the diagnostic information about a potential risk factor for that happening.

Numbness

Possible numbness or altered sensation in the teeth, lip, tongue and chin due to the closeness of the roots, especially the wisdom teeth to the nerves, which can be bruised or injured. What we are talking about here is called paresthesia. The inferior alveolar nerve, which provides sensation to the lips, chin area, tissues, and teeth, is the most common nerve damage during wisdom teeth removal. If damage occurs to this nerve, you might feel numbness in your lip or chin, similar to the feeling of when a dentist numbed you when you are getting a filling. The lingual nerve is another area where you may experience nerve damage. That is the nerve that provides the innervation of taste. For some people, they lose taste on half of their tongue only. What are the odds that you may experience paresthesia due to nerve damage?

hope that this information can really help you understand what some of the risk factors and potential complications related to wisdom teeth extractions are.

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