



DEFINITION

A dental extraction is the removal of a tooth and its roots when it is no longer recommended to keep it in the mouth. Teeth may need removal due to extensive tooth decay, tooth or root fracture, gum disease, impaction, infection, or due to crowding or malposition. It is a minor dental surgery that is performed under local anaesthesia.

PROCEDURE

There are various methods that can be used to remove a tooth. At our office, we take a conservative approach, and try to avoid cutting open the gums and drilling the bone. We therefore often refer the removal of impacted teeth or very complicated extractions. to offices that perform more surgical tooth removals.

The procedure begins with the application of local anaesthetic. The gums are then gently released from around the tooth, and an instrument is used to separate the ligament that holds the root to the jaw bone. "elevators" are then used to push on the tooth to further loosen it before it is grabbed with forceps and pushed out of the socket.

Teeth that are severely broken or that have multiple or curved roots may need to be cut in to separate sections that are removed piece by piece, and occasionally the bone that is locking the roots in place may need to be adjusted. It is normal to have to pick out the tips of roots during the removal of complicated teeth.

It is customary to let the gums heal on their own and to not place stitches to close the gums over the extraction socket. The gums heal within weeks, and the bone takes months to fill the extraction socket. During this process, a small depression in the gums will be notable. If a bone graft or dental implant is not placed in the area of the extraction, the bone will shrink in size over time, usually by the 2nd year. Teeth neighbouring and opposing the removed tooth can drift into the space left by the tooth removal. Bite forces will be reduced, depending on the size and position of the tooth.

DENTAL EXTRACTIONS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF THIS PROCEDURE?

The dental extraction procedure is a minor dental surgery and carries with it the common risks of localized pain, swelling and bruising which may last up to a week. Post operative bleeding is not expected, but may occur for a day or two; **please let us know if you are taking blood thinners or have taken bisphosphonates.** Scarring of surgical incisions and recession of the gums may occur.

It is important for the blood clot that closes the extraction site to remain in place; please avoid creating negative pressure (straws, smoking etc.) that can pull the clot out of the socket. A "dry socket" can occur if the blood clot is dislodged and the bone in the socket is exposed. This will be noted by a sudden increase in sharp, throbbing pain the week after the extraction procedure. If you are experiencing this pain, please advise us.

The roots of teeth can be close to vital structures in the jaws such as the sinuses for the upper back teeth, or the inferior alveolar and lingual nerves in the bottom jaw. These may be traumatized during the procedure, or can even be transiently affected by post operative swelling. Your specific risk scenario will be discussed before you consent to care.

Neighbouring teeth, roots and dental work can be damaged during the removal of a tooth.

Infection of the surgical site would be a rare complication.

Occasionally, the gums and bone in the area of the dental extraction may take months to feel normal again.

HOW DO I TAKE CARE OF THINGS?

Please read our post extraction care document to better understand how to care for your extraction site.

Please contact us with any questions 250-354-4244, info@nelsonavedental.com