



VALLEY ORAL SURGEON, LTD.
Dr. Michael L. del Rosario
ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY
Diplomate of American Board of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

SOMERSET OFFICE
261 W. Main St. Somerset, PA
445-2400

Main Office
20 Osborne Street
Johnstown, PA 15905
814-536-4675

Ebensburg Office
501 W. High Street
Ebensburg, PA 15931
814-472-6611

IMPACTED TEETH

The difficulty in removing impactions differs from patient to patient, consequently, so do the complications. Most people have few, if any, problems-some have many problems. Just because a friend reacted in one way does not mean that the same will be true following your surgery.

The removal of impacted teeth is quite different than the extraction of erupted teeth. The following conditions may occur, all of which are considered normal.

1. It is normal to experience some swelling for a few days. Some patients have more swelling on the second or third day than on the first day after surgery. If you are not having an increase in fever or increase of pain at the same time, this swelling is probably normal.
2. You may have a slight earache.
3. You may develop a mild sore throat.
4. You may experience some stiffness in opening your mouth and soreness in the gums near the surgical site.
5. The sutures placed in your mouth are in the proper position and are absolutely necessary for healing. Do not be concerned if they **appear** to be placed in your cheek.
6. Some numbness of your lower lip or tongue may linger for days, weeks or even months after lower tooth surgery. This almost always goes away.
7. The corners of the mouth are stretched and may dry out and crack. Your lips should be kept moist with cream, Vaseline, or chapped lip salve.
8. There may be a slight elevation of temperature for 24 to 48 hours. If the temperature persists, notify us.
9. Small chips of bone may emerge from the gums as healing progresses for several weeks. This is normal.
10. Please do not forcibly sneeze or blow your nose for several weeks after surgery. Bleeding from the nose may be present following removal of upper impactions that have an opening into the sinus.
11. Your other teeth may ache. This is called "referred pain" and is a temporary condition.
12. After 3 to 5 days a severe throbbing earache may develop. This may be the beginning of a "dry socket" which can be very painful. Call the office for a check-up appointment **(814) 536-4675** and we can quickly relieve the pain by placing a medicated dressing in the problem area.
13. Some patients may develop an infection in the surgical area many weeks after the surgery. Sudden swelling of the area is the main symptom. This is not uncommon and is often caused by rapid surface healing. Call our office if this happens **(814) 536-4675**.
14. Occasionally patients develop a clicking noise or some spasm associated with the temporomandibular joint (TMJ) after surgery. This is the joint immediately in front of your ear where the lower jaw hinges against the skull. This problem is probably due to swelling and pain causing imbalance in the chewing muscles. **THIS WOULD NOT OCCUR WITHOUT PRE-EXISTING WEAKNESS IN THIS JOINT.** The onset of TMJ problems usually occurs at about the same ages we are requested to remove wisdom teeth. The dates can and sometimes do coincide. It is sometimes difficult for the patient to understand that the surgery did not cause their TMJ problem since they may not have been aware of any clicking or pain before surgery.
15. After your normal, scheduled post-operative and/or suture removal appointment, some patients may require an additional follow up appointment in several weeks. Try to keep this appointment if at all possible. This allows us to check on your progress and to be sure all sutures have been removed. There is no charge for this appointment.