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COUNCIL
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DT03lite 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 any Western Australian public hospital for a copy.

Write questions or notes here:

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. Sometimes root-canal treatment will help to treat infection and pain. Your dentist may be able to rebuild your tooth.

What does the procedure involve?

Most teeth can be removed easily under a local anaesthetic. However, removing a tooth can sometimes be difficult. The procedure can take up to 40 minutes. Your dentist will loosen and remove the 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?

- Pain
- Bleeding
- Swelling and bruising
- Infection
- 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

How soon will I recover?

After the procedure your dentist will make sure that any bleeding has stopped. 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.

You may need to take up to a week off work. You should be able to return to normal activities within a week.

Most people make a full recovery.

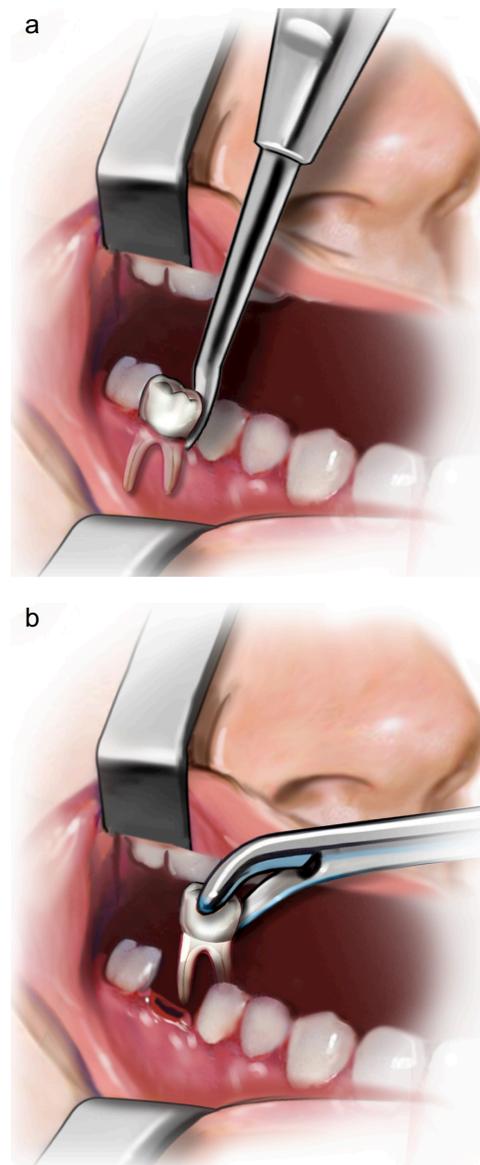


Figure 1

a An elevator is used to loosen the tooth

b Forceps are used to remove the tooth

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
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