



# Removal of Teeth

*Helping you understand your procedure  
and the consent form*

► **Please read this  
handout before  
reading and signing  
the consent form.**

**This handout explains the removal of teeth, including risks, benefits and alternatives. This handout is in addition to the discussions you have with your doctors. It is important that you understand this information, so please read this handout thoroughly.**

## About the Procedure

The removal of a tooth or teeth is normally done with local anesthesia to numb the area where the procedure is done. Sometimes another type of sedation or general anesthesia is used. Be sure to talk to your doctor if you wish to have some form of sedation for your procedure.

## Benefits

You might receive the benefits listed below from this procedure. The general chance of having these results happen is about 99%. Doctors cannot guarantee that you will receive any of these benefits. Only you can decide if the benefits are worth the risks. Benefits may include:

- Eliminate pain and infection.
- Create space for orthodontic reasons, or to reduce crowding to improve the appearance of your teeth and smile.
- Remove a damaged tooth that could be repaired, but is considered to be too costly and/or time-consuming to do so.

## What are the possible risks and complications from this procedure?

Before you have this procedure, you need to understand the associated risks. No procedure is completely risk-free. These risks are well-recognized, but there may also be risks not included in this list that are unforeseen by your doctors. Risks may include:

- General risks, which apply to all types of surgery and to procedures where a blood vessel, body cavity, or other internal tissue is entered with a needle, tube, or similar device. Such procedures are called *invasive* procedures. These risks, which can be serious and even life-threatening, include bleeding, infection, and damage to surrounding tissues, vessels, nerves, or organs.

With regard to your tooth removal, expected possible complications may include:

- Pain.
- Bleeding (oozing is normal).
- Bruising.
- Swelling (cold and puffy).
- Infection, which may include fever, hot/hard swelling, not feeling well.
- Damage to adjacent teeth and/or restorations.
- Delayed healing, requiring daily dressing changes.
- Hole between mouth and sinus, requiring more surgery.
- Fractured tooth particles that may remain in your body.
- Irritation to nerves that may cause temporary or permanent numbness, or altered sensation.
- Stiff jaw muscles and difficulty opening your mouth for a time.
- Change in how your upper and lower teeth fit together.
- If your jawbone is weak, it may fracture.
- Possible side effects from medicines, including racing heart, inability to get numb, and/or anxiety.
- If using sedation or general anesthesia, the normal risks of anesthesia and sedation include:
  - Dental damage.
  - Nerve damage as a risk of surgical/anesthesia positioning.
  - Possible serious damage to vital organs such as the brain, heart, lung, liver, and kidney. In some cases, this may result in paralysis, cardiac arrest, and/or brain death.

### **What are the alternatives to this procedure?**

You may decide not to have this procedure. Besides doing nothing, the alternative treatments may include:

- Root canal, build-up and crown, if the tooth is able to be repaired.
- Other possible therapies might exist. Ask your doctor to discuss any possible alternatives with you.

## Questions?

Call 206-598-4277

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or health care provider if you have questions or concerns. UWMC Clinic staff are also available to help at any time.

Dental Clinic:  
206-598-4277

---

---

---

---

- Other choices about anesthesia and/or sedation. These options include:
  - Local anesthesia only.
  - Local anesthesia plus nitrous oxide (laughing gas).
  - Oral sedation (tablets).
  - IV sedation.
  - General anesthesia.

There are also risks and benefits to these extraction treatment alternatives. Please discuss the details with your doctor, but these risks include:

- Spread of infection.
- Swelling.
- Pain.
- Inability to move forward with other dental care.

## What follow-up care is needed?

You may need follow-up care after tooth removal:

- Most times, we check your progress 3 to 7 days after surgery, to be sure you are healing well.
- Your sutures (“stitches”) may need to be taken out. Many sutures dissolve on their own, but it may also help your healing for your doctor to clip out the loose strands. Your doctor will tell you if this is needed, and when you should come back to the clinic for this visit.
- Please call your doctor if you have:
  - Any increase in pain.
  - Swelling.
  - Fever.
  - Discharge from the procedure site.
  - The feeling that something is getting worse.

If you have any questions about this procedure or the risks, benefits, or alternatives to this procedure, ask your doctor before signing any consent forms.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
**MEDICAL CENTER**  
UW Medicine

**Dental Clinic**

Box 354968

1959 N.E. Pacific St. Seattle, WA 98195  
206-598-4277