

# Surgery for buried canine teeth

## Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

Information for Patients

Last reviewed: March 2023

Next review: March 2026

Leaflet number: 844 Version: 1

### Why do we expose buried (impacted) teeth?

We all should have 4 permanent (adult) canine teeth which usually appear in the mouth between ages 11 to 13 years. Sometimes, 1 or more of these teeth develop in the wrong place, or lose their way and get impacted (stuck) against the roots of the neighbouring teeth or in the roof of the mouth (palate).

This can sometimes cause damage to the neighbouring teeth, and may need to be taken out. If it is in the wrong place, the tooth may need to be un-covered so your Orthodontist can try to guide it into place with braces, as it is an important tooth.

You and your Orthodontist should have agreed a treatment plan, and the Maxillofacial team will explain the surgical treatment.

### What does the surgery involve?

The surgery is a minor procedure which is usually done under general anaesthetic (you are asleep). The procedure may take up to 1 hour to do, depending on the position of the tooth. We may sometimes be able to do the procedure with local anaesthetic, but this also depends on the position of the tooth and patient agreement.

Once you are asleep (or the area is numb if done under local anaesthetic), the gum is moved aside, and a small amount of bone removed to uncover the tooth.

Once the tooth is uncovered, a small gold bracket may be attached to the tooth and the chain on the bracket stitched onto the gums, until you see your Orthodontist. **It is important you book a follow up appointment with your Orthodontist as soon as you know your surgery date, for 2 weeks after the operation.**

In some cases, the tooth is just uncovered, and a pack used to keep the gums from covering the tooth. **It is still important to arrange a follow-up appointment with the Orthodontist as soon as possible after surgery. It is the responsibility of the patient to arrange Orthodontic reviews.**

**Health information and support is available at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)  
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit [www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk) for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals  
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact [InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)

## Possible risks and side effects

- Oozing of blood in the first 24 hours. You may have a gentle ooze of blood on and off for 24 hours after the extraction, staining your saliva red. This is normal and to be expected. However, if you have continuous bleeding, (filling your mouth up with blood,) bite firmly on a moistened tightly rolled gauze pad or clean handkerchief for 20 minutes. If the heavy bleeding continues, seek medical advice, call 111 or go to the Emergency Department.
- Pain or discomfort (mild to moderate)
- Stitches over the extraction site may be needed. These are dissolving, and take anywhere from 2 days to 2 weeks to dissolve. Keep the wound clean, they will go when they have finished working .
- Infection in the area is possible. If you have a bad taste in the mouth, or increasing pain that is not controlled by pain medication, please see your Dentist or call the department for advice. You may need antibiotics.
- There is a low risk of damage to nearby teeth. Your surgeon will discuss this with you in more detail at the consultation. You will usually need to see your Dentist about this.
- The gold chain **may** fall off from the tooth or the gums, if this happens contact the department or your Orthodontist as soon as possible to re-attach it for you.
- Temporary or permanent numbness of the gums in the surgery area. This is a low risk, and is generally temporary.
- More surgery to remove the buried tooth may be needed if the tooth does not move into place as expected. Your Orthodontist will discuss this with you further.

## Do I have to have this surgery?

You do not have to have this surgery, but it is often needed if you intend to have braces to straighten your teeth. Most orthodontic treatment is successful, but the chances of success should be discussed with your Orthodontist.

**We will give you more information about after care before you go home.**

**If you have any issues after surgery, please contact the department during office hours on 0116 258 5671 or 0116 258 5301 or your Dental practice for advice.**

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على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل

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Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

Previous reference:

**If you would like this information in another language or format such as EasyRead or Braille, please telephone 0116 250 2959 or email [equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)**