

impacted canine exposure



what does "impacted" mean?

An impacted tooth simply means that it is blocked or "stuck" and cannot erupt into normal function. The most common teeth to become impacted are the third molars or wisdom teeth, followed by the upper canines or "eye teeth".

what causes impacted teeth?

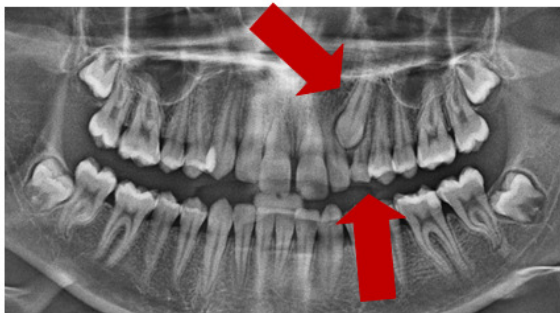
Causes include genetics, overcrowding, "extra teeth", or unusual growths that have formed and blocked the tooth's eruption path. There are several treatment options available depending on the patient's age. Each case is evaluated on an individual basis. Your orthodontist and oral surgeon will work together to get these un-erupted teeth to erupt!

do I have an impacted tooth?

Upper canines usually erupt into the mouth at around 12 years of age. A dental examination, along with a full mouth x-ray, can be used to determine if there are concerns.

what does it look like?

This OPG x-ray shows an impacted upper canine with a baby tooth still present:



the process

1. It is a procedure performed under local anesthetic; the oral surgeon will lift the gum on top of the hidden tooth. If there is a baby tooth still present it will be removed at the same time.
2. During the exposure appointment, the oral surgeon will attach a small metal button and chain to the tooth.

3. 1-2 weeks after the exposure appointment you will have your appointment with the orthodontist to have the chain activated, where they gently guide the impacted tooth into a more desired position.

4. Once the tooth is in a desired position, the orthodontist will remove the button and chain, and place an orthodontic bracket to that tooth, so that it can be attached to the rest of your braces.

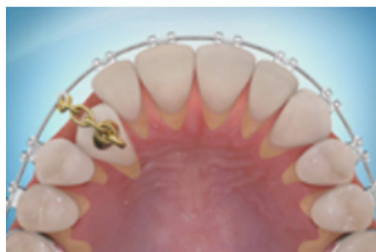
the visual stages



Identification of the impacted tooth



Gum lifted from the impacted tooth



Small metal button attached to the tooth, the chain attached to guide the tooth into alignment

discomfort

You may experience some discomfort at the surgical site during the first few days after surgery. Taking a Panadol or Nurofen may help. Rinsing with warm salty water twice daily will help to keep the wound clean and applying a cold pack will help settle any swelling.

eating

Stick to a soft-food diet for a week, or until you feel comfortable enough to chew more solid foods.

things to remember

Avoid eating sharp foods that may irritate the wound during initial healing. Maintain a good oral hygiene routine. Panadol or Nurofen can be used to ease any discomfort you may experience. Do not forget your next appointment with us! Generally 1 to 2 weeks post-surgery with your orthodontist

what's next?

We will send a referral letter to both you and the oral surgeon. You are then welcome to call the oral surgeon to make your initial appointment with them where they will discuss the timeframes and process in deeper detail with you.

