

GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING REMOVAL OF TEETH, UNCOVER & CHAIN and OTHER SURGICAL PROCEDURES

Are there any complications? Any operation carries some risk. This is reduced by pre-operative appraisal of your medical history and present physical condition, and by the skill and experience of the surgeon and the office personnel.

Lower Teeth are often near the sensory nerves of the lower jaw and tongue. A nerve may be bruised, slightly torn, or even cut in two. The result will be numbness or tingling of the lower lip, chin, gums and all the teeth on that side, and possibly part of the tongue. This effect does not last more than a few weeks, in most cases, improving as the nerve regenerates. Very rarely may it last as long as two years. Cases where the condition remained permanently have occurred.

Roots of Upper Teeth may extend into the sinus (a hollow space within the bone). The oral surgeon will use great care to see that no injury occurs to this structure, but occasionally when the tooth is removed a sinus opening may occur at the base of the socket into the sinus. Normally the socket fills in promptly to close the opening but if healing is delayed further, surgery may be necessary to prevent air or fluid from passing between the mouth and the sinus.

Small Tips of Roots occasionally break off deep in the socket as a tooth is removed. The oral surgeon may elect to leave these small tips in place if removal would require extensive surgery which could endanger nearby nerves, etc.

Weak or brittle fillings next to a tooth being removed may crack or fall out and may need to be replaced.

After Surgery in the Mouth:

Trismus: Trismus may occur. This is a condition which, due to tightening of the muscles of the jaw, may make it difficult to open the mouth for a few days or even a few weeks.

Infections: Infections can occur after oral surgery and if this happens, appropriate treatment will be prescribed.

Bleeding: Bleeding often occurs afterwards but this will usually be slight and will stop by itself. Instructions will be given that tell what to do if more serious bleeding should occur.

Swelling: The individual's reaction to surgery determines to a large extent on the amount of pain and swelling. Maximum swelling usually exists on the second day after surgery and then begins to decrease over a 3-4 day period. Any significant deviation should be reported to the doctor.

Following an Intravenous Injection (an injection into the vein) in the arm for sedation or general anesthesia, two or three percent of patients will develop thrombophlebitis. This indicates inflammation of the vein and is recognized by soreness and by the formation of a hard lump in the area. If this occurs anytime within the first few weeks after the injection, the patient should return to the office for instructions on treatment of the condition.

Antibiotics render oral contraceptives ineffective. Please be aware that precautions should be taken if you are currently using birth control pills.

Please be assured we will do our best at all times to insure as rapid and trouble free healing as possible.