

## Possible complications from Oral Surgery

Whenever oral surgery is performed or teeth are removed, certain complications may arise.

The possibility of these complications affecting your child is remote; however, as a parent you should be aware of them before consenting to the procedure. They are as follows:

### Relatively Common

These complications can happen but are usually minor and manageable.

1. Bleeding after the procedure. A certain amount of bleeding is normal after removing teeth or surgery. In certain cases, bleeding is excessive and needs management, from simple to complex.
2. Post Operative Infections. Infections after oral surgery in children are very rare, but possible and usually minor. Infection can result in pain and swelling and may require management and antibiotics. Localized infections such as dry socket are more common than generalize and acute infections like cellulitis.
3. Fracture of tooth, adjacent tooth/filling, or adjacent bone. There is potential to damage the tooth being extracted or adjacent structures as a result of the force required to remove a tooth. For example, a fragment of the root of a tooth being removed can separate. If they occur, these complications are usually minor complications and can be managed at the time of surgery.

### Very Uncommon

These complications are extremely uncommon in most cases, but require more complex management.

4. Damage to unerupted permanent teeth in the area of the surgery. This is very unlikely and is more common as a result of an aggressive primary tooth infection.
5. Jaw fracture or dislocation of the TMJ is a possibility if the underlying bone is weakened by infection and large molars are being removed.
6. Damage to a facial nerve can result in numbness in the jaw which, in most cases, is reversible and returns to normal after weeks to months. However, there are rare cases where the numbness can be permanent.
7. In rare cases, loss of a permanent tooth
8. Extraction of upper permanent molars may cause a maxillary sinus exposure or opening into bone of the maxillary sinus.

### Summary

You as the parent must be informed of these complications, even though in most cases they are rare. Careful following of the post-operative instructions that were given to you, will reduce the chance of these complications. Obviously, communication between you the parent, and our office is essential. Should you be concerned about your child following surgery, please contact our office.

