

Having minor oral surgery

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Information for Patients

Last reviewed: December 2025

Next review: December 2028

Leaflet number: 458 Version: 4

What is minor oral surgery?

This is a small surgical procedure on the mouth, lips, teeth and face. Procedures are often done under local anesthetic. This means you will be awake but the area will be numb. You should not feel any pain. Some of these procedures include:

Biopsy

A small piece of tissue is removed from the area on concern, and sent off to be examined under a microscope to get a diagnosis. It can take between 2 to 6 weeks to get the results.

The biopsy may remove all the tissue that is a cause for concern (excisional biopsy), or part of it (incisional biopsy). There will be a small scar in the area.

Possible complications of biopsy

- Sometimes the nerves near the area can get bruised or stretched. This can cause the area to feel numb. For a small number of people this numbness may not go away. It may be permanent.
- The biopsy area will heal with a scar. It can be thickened (lumpy).
- There is a possibility it can come back (recurrence).
- Your surgeon will talk to you about any other complications related to your biopsy.

Taking out difficult or broken down teeth

This may involve cutting the gums and pushing it out of the way, to help us see the tooth better. We may also need to drill the bone around the tooth, to make room for the tooth/root to be removed.

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Possible complications taking out broken teeth

- You may get some bruising or stretching of nearby nerves. This may cause temporary numbness. For a small number of people this can be permanent.
- There is a small risk of infection to the tooth socket.
- Nearby teeth could be damaged which your dentist would need to repair.

Apicectomy

This treats an infection at the end of the root of a dead tooth that has failed to respond to root canal treatment. The procedure is done under local anesthetic.

The gum is cut and pushed aside, and the bone over the end of the root tip may be removed to expose the infected area. The infection is cleaned out and the tip of the root removed. The root is then sealed with a small white filling, and the area closed with dissolving stitches (sutures). There will be a small scar on the gum.

Possible complications of an apicectomy

- The gum around the tooth can shrink back, exposing the root. If the tooth is crowned (capped), the margins may be seen and the crown may then need replacing by your dentist.
- The success rate is quite good in front teeth (70 to 90% in 100 patients). The rate is lower with other teeth, especially if you have had this treatment before.
- The tooth may become wobbly because some of its root being removed. This will often firm up.
- Infection at the root tip may come back. You may need to have the procedure again. Or if this is not possible, you may need to have the tooth taken out (extracted).
- There may be temporary numbness of the gum in the area. For a small number of people this can be permanent.
- Nearby teeth could be damaged which your dentist would need to repair.

Recovery

- You may have some bruising and swelling. This takes 1 to 2 weeks to settle. This is minor after a biopsy, but may be more severe after a difficult extraction or apicectomy. The swelling often gets worse at first for a few days. Then it will settle over the next week.
- You will have some oozing of blood from the wound for up to 24 hours (1 day) after the procedure.
- Depending on the procedure, you may need a few days to a week off work.
- You may have some discomfort, or difficulty opening the mouth at the start. You may then need to be on a soft or liquidized diet until this gets better.
- The soft tissues are repaired using dissolving stitches (sutures). It may take up to 2 weeks to dissolve. You may need to brush these with your toothbrush to remove them if they last more than 2 weeks.



What do I need to do after the procedure?

- We may give you antibiotics. You should use regular over the counter painkillers, or those prescribed. Do not to take aspirin, unless it is part of your regular medication.
- Keep your mouth as clean as possible. Brush gently around the wound from the next day using warm salty water or chlorhexidine mouthwash such as Corsodyl® (only use this for 1 week, as it stains the teeth), to bathe the wound.
- Do not do the following after your procedure for the rest of the day as it may cause bleeding:
 - do not rinse the mouth
 - do not spit
 - do not drink alcohol
 - do not eat/drink anything hot
- If you have bleeding, roll up a clean handkerchief or the gauze we give you. Wet it with cool boiled water. Do not use tissue or cotton. Place it over the site and apply pressure for 15 minutes.
- Do not smoke whilst the wound is healing as this may cause infection, and can also slow down healing.

Contact the department if you have:

- Numbness lasting more than 3 weeks.
- Very severe pain or pain that does not go away. A lot of swelling or bleeding.
- Any other concerns.

Contact details

Direct number: **0116 258 5301**

Nurses station: **0116 258 5671**

Appointments: **0116 204 7858**

Previous reference: 03.06.2005.23683.jw

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔
على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل

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