

Impacted Canines: What You Need To Know

Specialist Care by Dr Jesslyn Praganta - Otago Oral Surgery & Implant Centre

What Are Impacted Canines?

An impacted canine is an adult (permanent) canine tooth that has not erupted into its correct position in the mouth and remains partially or fully trapped in the jawbone or gum. This is usually due to lack of space in the jaw (crowding) or abnormal eruption path/tooth development. Occasionally, untreated impacted teeth can form a cyst around it, posing risks to surrounding bone and teeth.

Treatment Options

1. Orthodontic (Multidisciplinary) Approach - Exposure/Extraction & Alignment:

A small surgical procedure (exposure) may be carried out by an oral surgeon to uncover the impacted canine. After exposure, an orthodontic appliance is attached to gently guide the tooth into its correct position over time using braces or aligners. If the impacted tooth is unlikely to move or poses risks, extraction may be recommended. The remaining space can then be closed using braces or aligners.

2. Extraction & Replacement

If the remaining space after extraction is not suitable to be closed up, then a replacement will be needed. Once the site has healed (and depending on individual conditions such as jawbone quality and growth completion), an implant may be considered to replace the missing tooth. Alternative options such as bridge and removable partial plate are also good options, especially in young patients.

3. Extraction (Removal) Only

In some cases, extraction of the impacted canine (without further tooth replacement) may be considered, particularly if there is crowding.

Potential Risks And Complications

- ◆ **Risk of devitalisation of adjacent teeth:** Neighbouring teeth can sometimes lose their blood supply and die, potentially requiring a future root canal treatment.
- ◆ **Damage to adjacent tooth roots:** An impacted canine can cause resorption (wearing away) of nearby tooth roots, leading to pain or potential tooth loss.

Your Comfort: Anaesthetic & Sedation Options

Dr Praganta will help you choose the best option based on your needs and medical history. We prioritise your **comfort and peace of mind** with tailored sedation options:

- ◆ **Local anaesthesia:** Numbs the area while you remain awake
- ◆ **IV sedation:** Induces deep relaxation with minimal memory of the procedure
- ◆ **General anaesthesia:** Allows you to sleep through the surgery

What to Expect: Before & After Surgery

- ◆ **Consultation:** Review X-rays/scans, discuss your treatment plan, and answer any concerns.
- ◆ **Preparation:** Follow pre-op guidelines on eating, drinking, and medications.
- ◆ **Procedure:** Our supportive team ensures a smooth, comfortable experience.
- ◆ **Recovery:** Clear aftercare instructions for **pain & swelling management, diet, and hygiene** to promote healing and **prevent infection**.

Patient Acknowledgement & Consent

Patient Name:

Date of Birth:

I _____ (*name*) confirm that I have read and understood this information about impacted canines. I have had the opportunity to ask questions, which have been answered to my satisfaction, and consent to _____
to be performed on myself/my _____

I consent to IV sedation (and have read and understood the sedation information sheet)

Signature of Patient/Representative: _____

Date: _____

Signature of Surgeon/Sedationist: _____

Date: _____

Dr Jesslyn Praganta
Specialist Oral Surgeon