



Impacted Wisdom Teeth: What You Need To Know

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

What Are Impacted Wisdom Teeth?

Wisdom teeth (third molars) can become impacted when they fail to fully emerge due to:

- ◆ **Lack of space** in the jaw
- ◆ **Angled growth** pushing against other teeth

Why Does This Matter?

If left untreated, impacted wisdom teeth can cause:

- ✗ Pain & swelling
- ✗ Infections & gum disease
- ✗ Damage to nearby teeth & bone
- ✗ Cyst formation

Why Removal May Be Necessary

Early removal is often recommended to prevent complications:

- ✓ **Pain & infection prevention:** Impacted teeth trap bacteria, leading to swelling and discomfort.
- ✓ **Protects other teeth:** Prevents crowding, shifting, and decay in adjacent molars.
- ✓ **Faster recovery when younger:** Patients under 30 typically heal more quickly and with fewer complications.

Complexities & Specialist Care

Certain cases require expert attention due to:

- ◆ **Proximity to the inferior alveolar and lingual nerves:** Lower wisdom teeth may be close to these nerves, affecting sensation in the lower lip, chin and tongue.
- ◆ **Complex extraction:** Impacted teeth often require advanced surgical techniques.
- ◆ **Specialist care:** Dr Jesslyn Praganta uses **state-of-the-art imaging and precision surgery** to minimize risks and ensure safe removal.

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 and dry socket**.

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 _____

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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