



EXTRACTIONS

What is an extraction:

When teeth are damaged beyond repair or they are decayed beyond being able to be fixed, full extraction from the socket is necessary for overall oral health. You should hold on to your original teeth for as long as possible. For this reason, we try to avoid performing tooth extractions, but sometimes it is necessary.

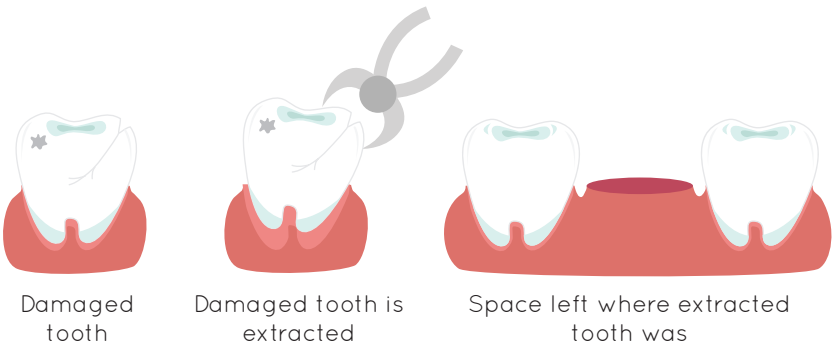
Reasons for an extraction:

- Excessive decay
- Trauma to the nerves
- Advanced gum disease that has damaged the gums and bone tissue
- Unique fracture to the tooth
- Wisdom teeth that are impacted or infected
- Teeth that are not functioning properly

Benefits of an extraction:

- Pain relief for a severely damaged or infected tooth

How it's done:



POST OP CARE INSTRUCTIONS

What to expect after your extraction:

- The healing period for an extraction usually takes 1-2 weeks
- You'll experience some swelling/bleeding for the first 48 hrs
- Anesthetic will leave your mouth numb - avoid chewing until the numbness has completely worn off
- Discomfort is normal: Take Ibuprofen (600 mg)/acetaminophen (500 mg) every 6 hrs
- Apply an ice pack to decrease pain and swelling
 - 20 minutes on, 20 minutes off, for the first six hrs
 - A frozen bag of peas work great for this!
- A blood clot will form on the extraction site, this clot is vital to the healing process. To keep the clot intact:
 - Avoid touching the extraction site
 - Do not drink liquids through a straw
 - Do not spit with force
- Blowing your nose or sneezing can dislodge the blood clot - if you have a cold or allergies, be sure to take the appropriate nasal medication
- Do not drink alcohol for 48 hrs
- Do not smoke for 7 days
- Avoid allowing food to pack into the tooth's socket
- Do not vigorously rinse your mouth for the first 24 hours
- After 24 hours rinse gently with a warm salt water solution:
 - Dissolve 1/2 tsp of salt with 8 oz. of warm water
 - Do this 2-3 times each day for a week

Notify our office if:

- Heavy bleeding develops - if the gauze is still being heavily saturated after 2 hrs. Oozing is normal, heavy bleeding is not.
- Severe nagging pain at the extraction site after 24 hours.
- Elevation of temperature over 101 F develops.

If any of the above occurs, please call the office to schedule an appointment.

POST OP NOTES:
