

Wisdom Tooth Management

Pain or no pain:  Your wisdom teeth should be checked annually.

9 of 10

people have at least one impacted wisdom tooth.



Did you know?

It is less complicated to remove wisdom teeth when the patient is younger because:



The roots are not completely formed.



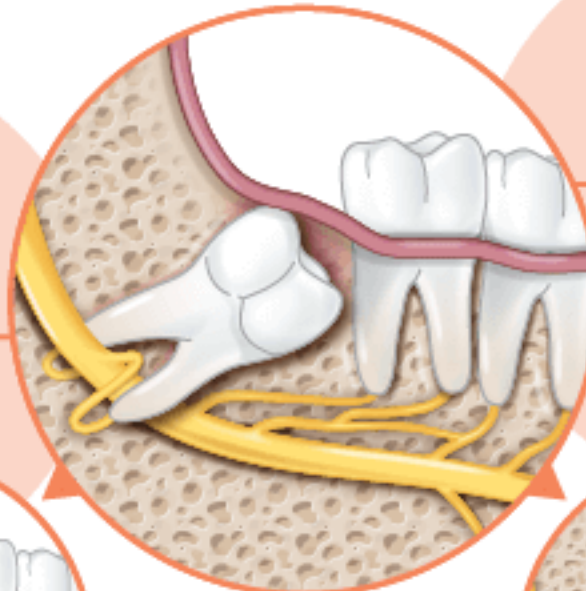
Surrounding bone is softer.



There is less chance of damaging nearby nerves or other structures.

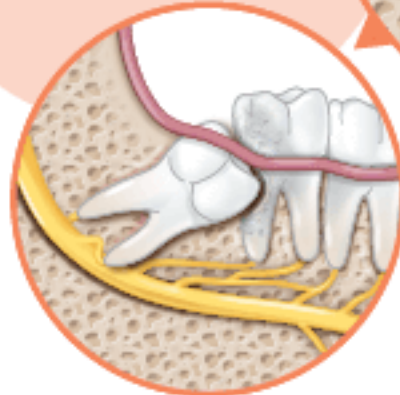
Is an impacted wisdom tooth serious?

Yes! Complications can arise, including:

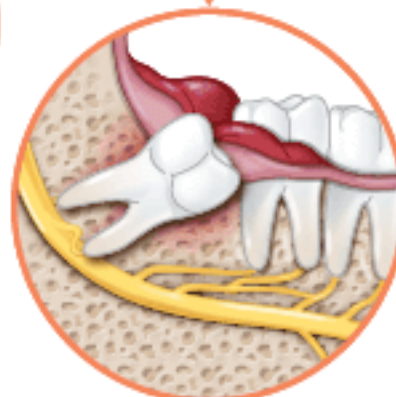


What is an impacted tooth?

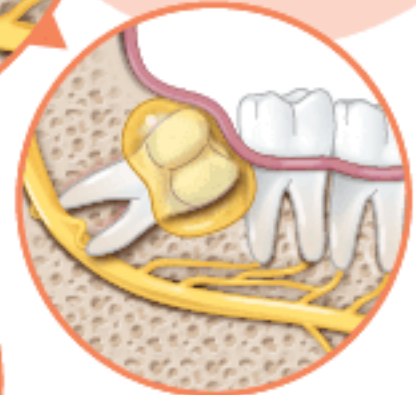
When wisdom teeth cannot break through the gums, or there isn't enough room for them.



Damage to adjacent teeth



Infection



Formation of cysts



When should they be removed?

Generally, wisdom teeth should be surgically removed when there are:

- Infections and/or periodontal (gum) disease
- Cavities that can't be restored
- Cysts, tumors or other pathologies
- Damaged neighboring teeth

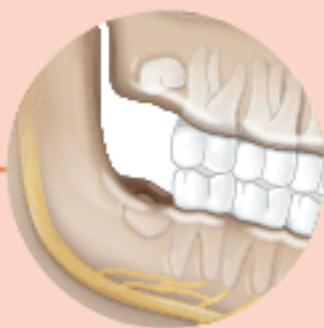


What if they are not removed?

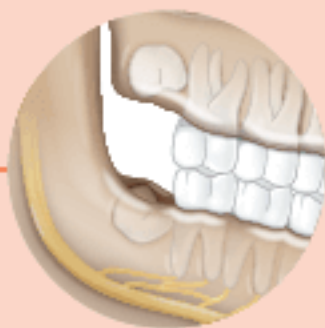
Healthy, properly positioned wisdom teeth require:

- Regular, professional cleanings
- Annual checkups
- Periodic X-rays to monitor for changes

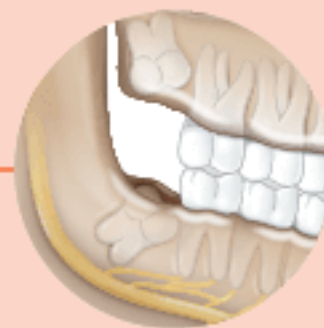
○ **Third molars (known as wisdom teeth):** The last teeth to develop and appear in the mouth ○



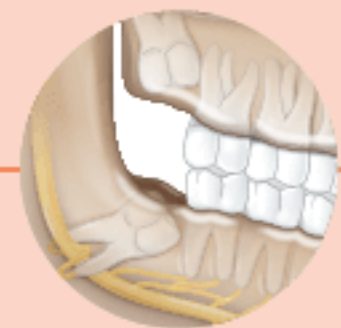
12 Years



14 Years



17 Years



25 Years

"Age of Wisdom"

Ages 17 to 25, when third molars come in.

Pain-free does not necessarily mean disease-free. The worst thing to do is to ignore your wisdom teeth.



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Source: American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, www.MyOMS.org

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