



6 SECRETS YOU NEED TO KNOW

BEFORE SCHEDULING WISDOM TEETH REMOVAL



**ORAL & FACIAL
SURGERY** *of Utah*

**JUDD E. PARTRIDGE, DMD
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1. WHY ARE WISDOM TEETH REMOVED?

Wisdom teeth, or third molars, are the last permanent teeth to develop. They can cause numerous dental issues, including tumors, gum disease, infection, and overcrowding, which can lead to bacterial growth. Another common issue is that wisdom teeth are hard to reach and clean, causing tooth decay. These problems, and the long-term financial costs that come with them, can be avoided through wisdom teeth extraction. For most people, their jaws are too small for wisdom teeth to grow in properly, requiring extraction at some point in life.

In general, the earlier wisdom teeth are extracted, the more likely positive outcomes will result. Wisdom teeth extractions are safer and more efficient than ever. It is critical to choose an experienced oral surgeon who you can trust. Dr. Partridge and Dr. Maxfield have performed wisdom teeth extractions, and have earned strong reputations among patients and dental professionals for their quality of care and level of expertise.

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2. EVEN IF YOUR WISDOM TEETH AREN'T BOTHERING YOU NOW, THEY MAY BECOME PROBLEMATIC LATER

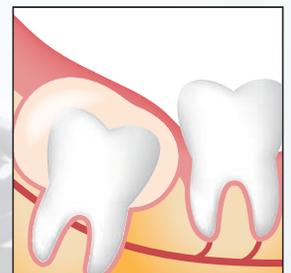
Some people decide to delay treatment because they don't feel immediate pain or symptoms that are typically associated with wisdom teeth. However, dental professionals recommend consulting with an oral surgeon even if you think your wisdom teeth are not a problem, because problems can still arise even if you believe your risk is low. The longer you postpone treatment, the more likely that serious complications can develop, which can negatively impact your general oral health for the rest of your life.



Tooth Damage



Infection



Cysts & Tumors



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3. ORAL SURGEONS ARE THE MOST QUALIFIED DOCTORS TO REMOVE YOUR WISDOM TEETH

Oral and maxillofacial surgeons are dental specialists who receive 4 to 6 years of additional medical and surgical training beyond dental school in order to specialize in surgical procedures related to teeth, jaw, and face. Part of their training includes complex tooth extractions, like those performed specifically for wisdom teeth.

Most oral surgeons perform wisdom tooth extractions on a daily basis, which means they are well-trained and properly equipped to handle complications should they occur.



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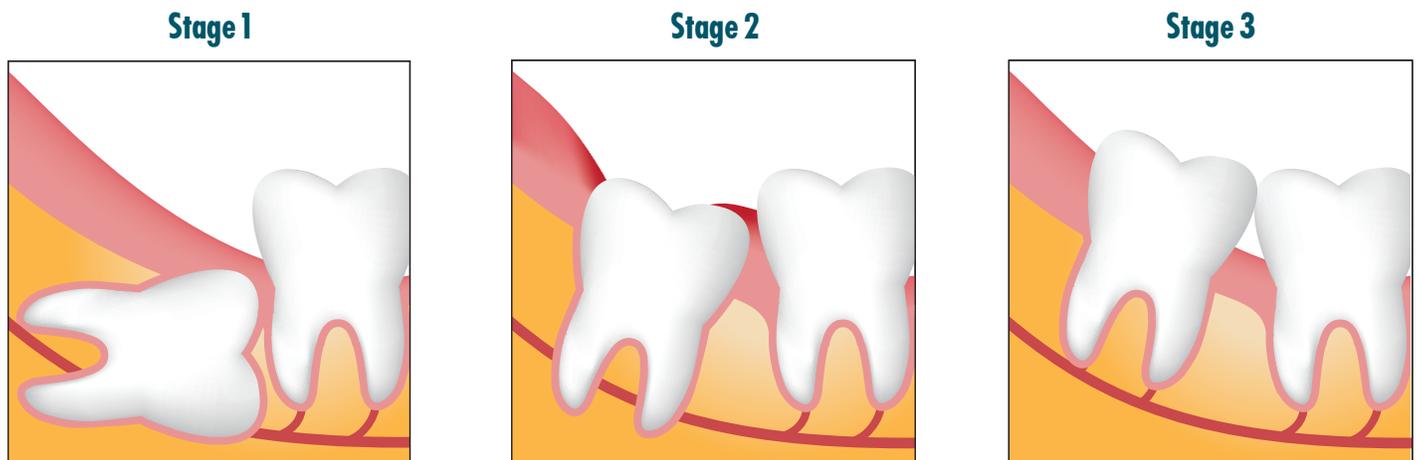
4. THE IDEAL AGE FOR PREVENTATIVE WISDOM TOOTH REMOVAL IS DURING ADOLESCENCE

Studies indicate that:

“...as one becomes older, third molars become more difficult to remove, may take longer to remove, and may result in an increased risk for complications associated with removal. The age of 25 years appears in many studies to be a critical time after which complications increase more rapidly.”

Pogrel, M. Anthony. What Is the Effect of Timing of Removal on the Incidence and Severity of Complications? Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Vol. 70, Issue 9, Supplement 1, Pages S37-S40.

Wisdom teeth are easier to extract when the teeth are still impacted and developing under the gum tissue because the roots haven't taken hold of the jawbone yet. As we get older, our bone becomes increasingly dense, and roots become more embedded in the jawbone, which can cause not only extreme pain and swelling, but can make the post-operative recovery more uncomfortable.



Stage 1: Impacted wisdom teeth—roots have not fully developed, removal is easier

Stage 2: Partially-erupted wisdom teeth—teeth that have partially broken through the gum tissue—bacteria may enter the opening around the tooth and cause infection, pain, and swelling in your mouth

Stage 3: Fully-erupted wisdom teeth

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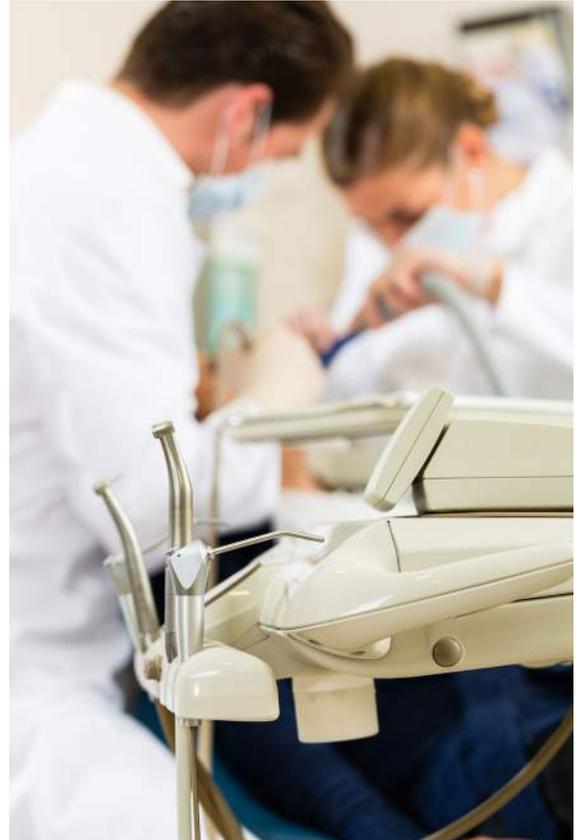
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5. GENERAL ANESTHESIA IS THE SAFEST WAY TO HAVE YOUR IMPACTED WISDOM TEETH REMOVED

Wisdom teeth that are impacted underneath the gums are embedded into the jawbone, requiring an incision into the gums and then removal of the portion of bone that lies over the tooth. In this situation, the tooth will often be extracted in small sections rather than removed in one piece to minimize the amount of bone that needs to be removed to get the tooth out. It sounds aggressive, but it's the safest way to extract the tooth.

Oral surgeons are trained in all aspects of anesthesia administration, which allows them to perform more complicated surgeries, such as extracting multiple impacted wisdom teeth, under general anesthesia with little discomfort to the patient. In some instances, oral surgeons will suggest local anesthetics for cases where the extraction is simple and can be done in a matter of minutes.

Dr. Partridge and Dr. Maxfield have helped advise numerous patients in making decisions regarding anesthesia. Prior to your wisdom tooth removal, they will review with you type of anesthetic they suggest for your surgery that will address your needs. Ask questions to make sure you're comfortable with your treatment plan.



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6. WISDOM TEETH CONSULTATIONS ARE GENERALLY FREE!

Dr. Partridge and Dr. Maxfield offer risk free consultations for wisdom teeth. It can only help you to know what condition your wisdom teeth are in, and what the appropriate timetable for removal is if necessary. As trained oral surgeons, our doctors have your best interests in mind and the skills to provide the care you need.



FIND OUT IF NOW IS THE RIGHT TIME FOR WISDOM TEETH REMOVAL.

For more information about wisdom teeth removal or to schedule a free consultation, call one of our convenient locations.

MEET THE DOCTORS

With over 15 years of combined practice experience, Dr. Partridge and Dr. Maxfield manage a wide variety of problems relating to the mouth, teeth and facial regions. They practice a full scope of oral and maxillofacial surgery with expertise ranging from corrective jaw surgery to dental implants and wisdom tooth removal.



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