

# Removal of Impacted Canines

## Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

### Introduction

The canines, or eye teeth, normally erupt into the mouth between the ages of 11 and 13. Sometimes, one or both canines develop in the wrong position and become impacted. The majority impact towards the roof of the mouth (palate) behind the front teeth but some impact on the cheek side (buccal).

### What is meant by impacted?

A tooth that is prevented from erupting into its normal functional position by bone, tooth or soft tissue.

### How does it happen?

Upper canines are the last teeth to come through and are therefore more likely to become impacted. It can be caused by missing lateral incisors which provide lack of guidance to the canine, lack of space for eruption due to crowding and in some cases there is a family history.

### Diagnosis

Diagnosis is by clinical and radiographic (x-ray) examination. Radiographic examination usually involves taking 2 radiographs (x-rays).

### Treatment Options

- Leave the impacted canine as it is and accept the appearance. There is a small chance that the canine could cause problems in the future by damaging the neighbouring teeth or by formation of a cyst.
- Surgical removal of the impacted tooth. This involves a short operation, often under general anaesthetic. This is done as a day case procedure meaning that you can go home that day. The gum needs to be lifted up so that the tooth can be identified and removed. Afterwards there will be some stitches between the teeth. The mouth will be a little uncomfortable for a few days up to a week. Usually normal painkillers such as ibuprofen and / or Paracetamol are sufficient.
- Exposure & bonding of the tooth to bring it into the correct position. This may not be possible if the tooth is in a difficult position.

Your surgeon and/or orthodontist will advise you on the best treatment option.

Additional information can also be obtained by logging on to <http://www.baoms.org.uk.sitemap.asp?id=20>

### Other web links

National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research

Patient.co.uk

**Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery**  
St. Peter's Hospital Telephone: 01932 872000 ext. 2493  
Ashford Hospital Telephone 01784 884009

## Further Information

We endeavour to provide an excellent service at all times, but should you have any concerns please, in the first instance, raise these with the Matron, Senior Nurse or Manager on duty. If they cannot resolve your concern, please contact our Patient Experience Team on 01932 723553 or email [asp-tr.patient.advice@nhs.net](mailto:asp-tr.patient.advice@nhs.net). If you remain concerned, the team can also advise upon how to make a formal complaint.

Author: Alex Creedon

Department: Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Version: 4

Published: Apr 2018

Review: Apr 2020

**We can provide interpreters for a variety of languages, information in larger print or other formats (e.g. audio) - please call us on 01932 723553.**



**To use the Text Relay service, prefix all numbers with 18001.**

اگر نیاز بہ ترجمہ دارید، لطفا با شماره 01932 723553 تماس بگیریں۔  
ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਤਰجمہ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰپا کر کے ایس نمبر تے فون کرے: 01932 723553  
اگر آپ اس کا اردو زبان میں ترجمہ چاہتے ہیں، تو براؤزر میں اس فون نمبر 01932 723553 پر رابطہ کریں  
Se precisa de uma tradução por favor contacte: 01932 723553

আপনার অনুবাদের দরকার হলে এখানে যোগাযোগ করুন : 01932 723553  
यदि आपको अनुवाद की ज़रूरत है तो कृपया हम नंबर पर फोन करें: 01932 723553  
Jeżeli chcemy, aby te informacje w innym języku,  
proszę zadzwonić 01932 723553

**Ashford Hospital** London Road, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 3AA Tel: **01784 884488**  
**St. Peter's Hospital** Guildford Road, Chertsey, Surrey, KT16 0PZ Tel: **01932 872000**

**Website: [www.ashfordstpeters.nhs.uk](http://www.ashfordstpeters.nhs.uk)**