

Impacted Wisdom Teeth

Wisdom teeth are actually a third set of molars which usually grow into the mouth when we are young adults. In many cases, there is not enough room in the mouth to accommodate these teeth, and they end up becoming trapped within the jaw bone. In this example, we are looking at a wisdom tooth which is growing into the tooth in front of it and is now impacted. If this situation is not treated, the impacted tooth can become infected and develop an abscess. In many cases, the tooth in front becomes decayed from the bacteria which is trapped in between the teeth, and can require extensive treatment. Extraction of this wisdom tooth is the recommended treatment.

In this example, the wisdom tooth is laying on its side and is unable to grow into the mouth. It is impacted into the jaw bone. Once again, extraction will be required. In some cases, the roots of the wisdom teeth are close to the canal in the jaw bone which holds the nerves and blood vessels that supply the teeth and jawbone. Your dentist will assess your specific situation and discuss any concerns with you. Impacted wisdom teeth are often best removed when they are first diagnosed, before they become painful and create other problems which compromise the health of the surrounding teeth, bone and tissue.

