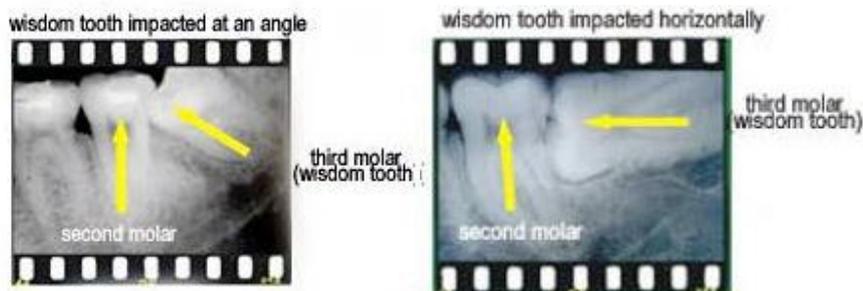


# Impacted Wisdom Teeth Combat Strategies

## A Potential Threat

Wisdom teeth, also known as the third molars, are located at the rearmost of your upper and lower jaws. They usually erupt when you are 17 to 25 years old.

However, the length of the jawbone of a modern man is too short for a wisdom tooth to come through properly. In such case, the wisdom tooth may be obstructed or can partly come through, and becomes an impacted wisdom tooth.

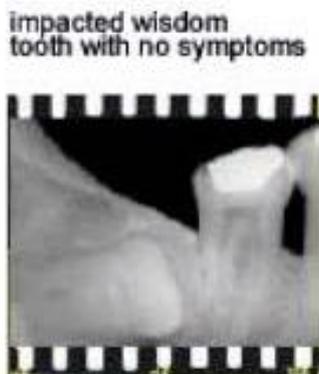


The direction of impaction may vary, mostly at an angle or horizontally. The depth of impaction within the jawbone may also differ. As the wisdom tooth quietly develops, it may initiate a series of oral problems without prior warning.

## Treatment Approaches

### Case 1: Wisdom tooth completely embedded

The tooth is fully embedded within the jawbone but does not produce any sign or symptom.



Treatment: Keep monitoring for any sign of change. Normally, no extraction is necessary.

## Case 2: Wisdom tooth partially erupted

It may cause one or more of the following dental problems:

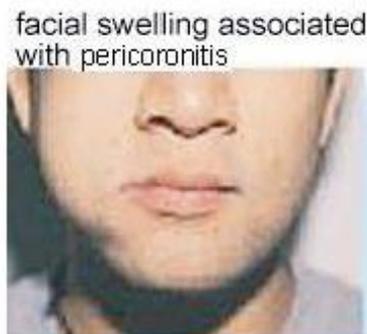
### Problem 1: Recurrent Pericoronitis

Food debris and plaque bacteria are easily trapped in the space between the crown of the wisdom tooth and the overlying gum, resulting in the infection of the gum tissues (pericoronitis). Also, the infected, swollen overlying gum is often bitten by the opposing tooth, making the infection difficult to heal. Pericoronitis usually happen to the wisdom teeth of the lower jaws.



### Common symptoms:

- ◆ Reddened, swollen and tender gums, oozing pus
- ◆ Difficult to open the mouth, bad breath

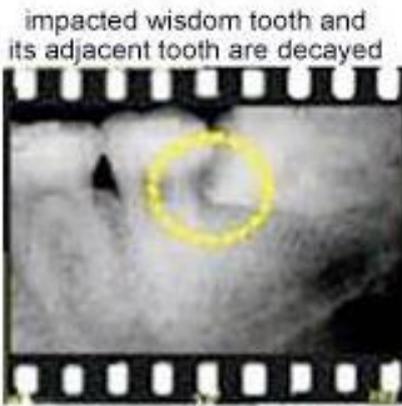


### Severe symptoms:

- ◆ Sore and swollen lymph nodes, fever, facial swelling

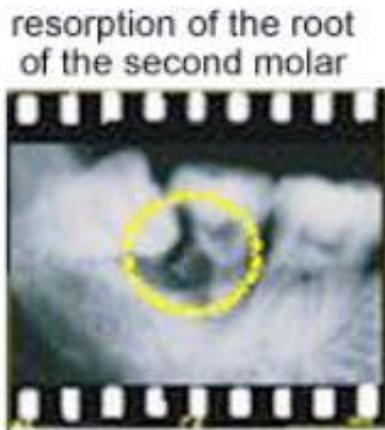
### Problem 2 :Dental Decay

Acid attack of the impacted tooth surface between the wisdom tooth and the tooth in the front will result in dental decay in the area



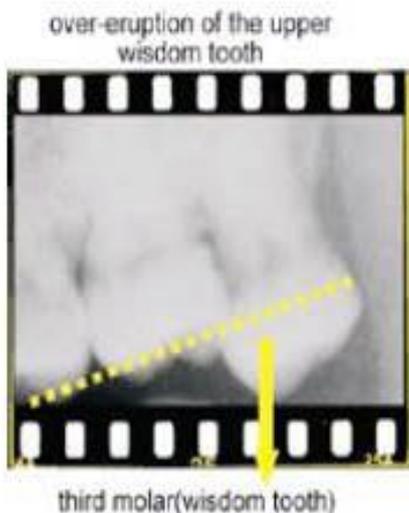
**Problem 3: Silent Destruction**

- ◆ The impaction pressure of the wisdom tooth may lead to root resorption of the adjacent tooth.
- ◆ The wisdom tooth follicle may develop into a cyst or tumour.



**Other Factors for Consideration**

- ◆ Removal of wisdom teeth should be considered for orthodontic reasons or for people who need head or neck radiotherapy.
- ◆ If the opposing lower wisdom tooth has to be extracted, the upper wisdom tooth should be removed to prevent it from causing problems due to over-eruption.



Treatment: Remove the partially erupted wisdom tooth and have the peace of mind.

### Break Down the Barriers to Treatment!

- ◆ Expensive--- The earlier you treat it, the less you need to spend. Keep putting off until more severe problems arise, treatment will be more complicated, time-consuming and expensive.
- ◆ Painful, Lots of concerns---These are psychological barriers. When troubles arise, the severe pains will really hurt.
- ◆ Avoidance---Face up to the fact that problematic wisdom teeth will eventually cause troubles. Treatment is better done early.

### Where to Seek Help?

When you have questions about your wisdom teeth, you should consult your dentist. He will carefully diagnose your teeth conditions after thorough oral and X-ray examinations. He will clearly explain your conditions, their management and treatment modalities. If removal of the teeth is necessary, he will also ensure that you fully understand the risks involved and the necessary after care.



Act Now!

Consult your dentist about your impacted wisdom teeth and avoid any potential suffering now.