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### Maxillofacial & Oral Surgeon

## Possible Side Effects of Impacted Teeth Removal

**The removal of impacted teeth is quite different from that of the extraction of erupted teeth. The following conditions may occur, all of which are considered normal**

- The operated area will probably swell. Swelling is most marked on the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> day, and begins to disappear on the fourth day.
- Stiffness (Trismus) of the jaws is nature's way of splinting or resting the parts which needs to be repaired, and usually relaxes from about the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> post-operative day.
- Numbness around the corners of the mouth around on the same day of the wisdom teeth removal may develop. This is called paresthesia and is a temporary condition, which will correct itself. It may remain anything from a few days to several months.
- Bleeding internally into the cheeks and chin causes black and blue marks on the face. This appears first as a swelling, but often on the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> day it may discolor the face yellow, black or blue. It will gradually disappear within a week or ten days. A hot towel, wrung out, may be applied for ten minutes, 3 times a day. This will be comforting but will not speed up the fading process.
- General muscle stiffness is sometimes encountered after surgery. An anaesthetic drug called Scoline causes it. This usually disappears after 2-3 days.
- There might be a slight earache.
- A soar throat may develop.
- Other teeth may ache temporarily. This is sympathetic/referred pain and a temporary condition.
- If the corner of the mouth is stretched they may dry out and become cracked. The lips should be kept moist with a cream or ointment.
- There might be a cavity where the tooth was removed. This area should be rinsed following meals.
- During the healing process, small sharp fragments of bone may work out through the gum. This is especially true of multiple extractions and is nature's way of reshaping the ridge. This process of shedding may last anything from 2 weeks to 4 months. If there is difficulty with some of these, please call the rooms and let Dr. Botha see you. Impressions for the dentures should be postponed until the ridge is well healed.

- There may be a slight temperature elevation for 24-48 hours. If temperature continues, please notify Dr. Botha.
- Return to the rooms for post-operative treatment and suture removal as instructed and feel free to contact us if any doubt arises as to your progress and recovery

**Good luck and we wish you a speedy recovery**