

## **Treatment Information & Risks**

The following is for information purposes only and your dentist will explain your treatment and the possible risks fully before beginning any procedure, making sure you understand any alternative options available to you.

### **Risks of Extraction**

There are certain inherent and potential risks associated with any type of surgical procedure, including extractions. During and following treatment you may experience pain or discomfort, bleeding, swelling, bruising, and stiff jaws, all of which can last for several days.

It is possible for an infection to occur in the extraction site that may require antibiotics and/or other procedures to treat the infection. Less common complications include: dry socket (lost blood clot); loss or loosening of dental restorations; loss or injury to adjacent teeth and soft tissues; jaw fractures; sinus exposure (upper teeth); swallowing or aspiration of teeth and restorations.

Small root fragments may break off from the tooth being extracted. Depending on their size and position, they may either be left to remain in the jaw or may require additional surgery for removal.

During surgery it may be impossible to avoid touching, moving, stretching, or injuring the nerves that control sensations and function of lips, tongue, chin, teeth, and mouth which may result in nerve disturbances such as temporary or permanent numbness, itching, burning, or tingling of the lip, tongue, chin, teeth, and/or mouth tissues.

Extracting the tooth may not relieve all symptoms and complications can occur making other treatment or procedures necessary.

In rare instances patients have had an allergic reaction to the anaesthetic, an adverse medication reaction to the anaesthetic, or temporary or permanent injury to nerves and/or blood vessels from the injection. The injection area(s) may be uncomfortable following treatment and the jaw may be stiff and sore from the mouth being held open during treatment.

## **Risks of Root Canal Treatment**

The purpose of this procedure is to retain a tooth (teeth) that may otherwise have to be extracted. Root canal therapy has a very high success rate, but we have not, and cannot, guarantee or warrant a perfect result. Though rare, there are certain potential risks in the procedure.

These include:

Inability to completely fill the root canal because the canal is calcified or has a unique curvature (this may require endodontic surgery or extraction of the tooth).

Infection that may occur and may continue, requiring further endodontic surgery or extraction.

Fracture or breakage of the root or crown portion during or after treatment.

Inadvertent breakage of files or instruments within the root canal system that are unable to be retrieved.

Perforation of the tooth or root of the tooth during treatment.

Damage to existing fillings, crowns or porcelain veneers.

As with any procedure, the use of local anaesthetic may cause swelling, jaw muscle tenderness or even a resultant temporary or permanent numbness of the tongue, lips, teeth, jaws and/or facial tissues.

Unforeseen conditions may arise that require further procedures, a repeat treatment, or referral to a specialist for further treatment.