

## **TOOTH REMOVAL INFORMATION**

### **Before Removal**

- Take all prescription medicines as normal unless otherwise instructed.
- Eat as normal. If you are diabetic, make sure you have a sugary snack before attending your appointment.
- Using local anaesthetic, the tooth and surrounding gum area will be numbed. The effects of the anaesthetic usually lasts about 3 hours.
- The tooth to be removed and the gum around it will be gently tested to ensure they are numb.

### **During Removal**

- A pushing feeling will be perceived, but not pain. This is normal.
- Slight crackling noises may be noticed. This is normal.
- Sometimes a tooth or root will break during removal. This is more likely with more broken down teeth or when heavily filled teeth are removed. Curved or thin roots are more likely to break. Root filled teeth are more brittle.

P.T.O.

- Broken roots will either be left in place and monitored at future visits, or if necessary, they will be retrieved. This may involve cutting the numb gum and possibly the numb bone too. We will discuss the options with you if a root breaks.
- When removing an upper back tooth, there is always a very small risk of a root breaking and lodging in the air sinus above where the tooth was. If this happens, it will be removed in hospital by specialists.
- When removing an upper back tooth, there is always a very small risk that following successful removal of the tooth, a communication will exist between the mouth and the air sinus above where the tooth was, allowing air and liquid to pass between the two, through the extraction socket. If this happens, the communication will usually need to be fixed in hospital by specialists. Sometimes however the communication heals itself naturally.

### After Removal

- The extraction socket usually fills with blood following tooth removal and this forms a protective blood clot. If the clot remains in the socket then healing is usually uneventful. If the clot comes out, a hole for food and bacteria to enter is left and a painful “dry socket” usually follows. This is indeed very painful and can persist for a week or so, slowly getting better, but usually heals naturally. If this happens, please do not hesitate to contact the Practice for more help and advice.
- There will be a gap where your tooth/root used to be, after it is removed.
- We will provide you with an after-care advice sheet following the removal of your tooth.