

Why is this procedure necessary?

Canine teeth (“eye teeth”) often develop in the wrong position and so fail to erupt into the mouth.

The unerupted canine tooth is usually positioned in the roof of the mouth but alternatively, it may be positioned on the other side of the teeth, beneath the upper lip (buccal side).

In order for the orthodontist to be able to move the canine tooth into the mouth with braces, it will first be necessary to expose the tooth surgically and bond a metal bracket and chain to the tooth. The orthodontist will then attach the chain to a brace and slowly pull the tooth into position

How is the procedure carried out?

A Day Case General Anaesthetic will usually be necessary for this procedure.

Local Anaesthetic will be administered once you are asleep, so this area will feel numb and swollen when you wake-up.

An incision (cut) will be made in the gum and any bone overlying the top of

the tooth will be removed to expose the crown of the tooth.

A small metal bracket and chain will then be attached to the tooth with a special type of glue. The gum will be repositioned over the tooth and secured with dissolvable stitches.

The chain (which hangs down from the metal bracket) will be secured to the gum with a black stitch. This stitch will be removed by your Orthodontist, 1-2 weeks after the operation.

What happens after the operation?

- After the operation your mouth is likely to feel sore and tender for a few days and you will be advised to take painkillers eg. Paracetamol.
- It is important to keep cleaning your teeth as usual but obviously take care around the operation site. You will be advised to rinse your mouth with hot saltwater mouthwashes and/or Corsodyl mouthwash.
- You should make an appointment to see your Orthodontist 1-2weeks after the operation.

Could there be any problems after the operation?

As with any type of surgery, certain problems could possibly occur following the operation:

- Infection – the area around the exposed teeth may become red, swollen and increasingly tender after the operation. This would usually be an indication of infection and you should either contact the Oral & Maxillofacial Department or your Dentist for advice. It may be necessary for you to take a course of antibiotics.
- It is possible that the metal bracket may fall off the canine tooth some time after the operation. If this were to happen, it may be necessary to repeat the surgical procedure.
- The teeth on either side of the canine tooth may be slightly loose following the operation. If this happens, it is important that you do not bite / chew hard foods with these teeth .It may be several weeks before they feel firm again.

- Very occasionally the blood supply to the teeth on either side of the canine may be disrupted during the surgery. This means that the nerves inside these teeth may die and the teeth could become discoloured and/or infected, some time after the operation. If this happened, it would be necessary for you to have these teeth root-filled by your dentist.
- If the canine tooth does not respond to orthodontic treatment (it fails to move once the brace has been applied), it may be necessary to surgically remove the canine tooth under a General Anaesthetic.

**If you have any questions
about this information
leaflet please phone the
Oral & Maxillofacial
Surgery Department**

☎ Tel. (01803) 655150

Exposure Impacted Canines/Max Fax/SDHC NHS
FT/09.12/Review date 09.14

South Devon Healthcare **NHS**
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PATIENT INFORMATION



**Surgical
Exposure of
Impacted Canine
Teeth**