

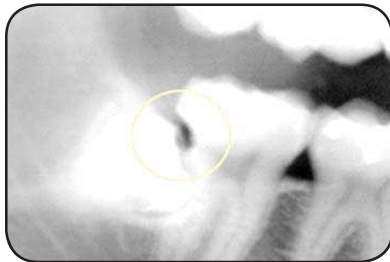
# Considering Extraction for Wisdom Teeth

## Extracting wisdom teeth

For many people, the best treatment for wisdom teeth is to remove them. This treatment helps prevent future dental problems and maintain a healthy mouth and smile.

## Wisdom teeth can cause problems

Your last molars, called the third molars or wisdom teeth, typically begin to come in (erupt) during the late teens or early twenties. When they don't have room to grow in properly, they are considered impacted. This can cause serious problems:



*Impacted wisdom tooth has caused decay to form between it and the second molar*

*Impacted wisdom tooth with cyst developing under the gumline*



*Wisdom teeth erupt during late teen's and early twenty's*



*Partially-erupted wisdom tooth*

- ❖ A very painful infection, called pericoronitis, can affect a partially erupted wisdom tooth and the surrounding gums. This infection can spread into the face and jaw.
- ❖ When a wisdom tooth tries to erupt at an angle, it can cause decay in the neighboring tooth. This happens because wisdom teeth are nearly impossible to keep free of plaque, and the area between the two teeth becomes a trap for the bacteria in plaque that cause tooth decay.
- ❖ Additional bacteria in plaque cause periodontal (gum) disease, which may start near the wisdom teeth and spread throughout the mouth.
- ❖ A fluid-filled sac called a cyst may develop around an impacted tooth. A cyst can destroy a great deal of bone in the jaw before it's noticed.

## Diagnosis and treatment

To determine if extracting wisdom teeth is right for your situation, we'll do a thorough examination, which typically includes x-rays.

It's often better to remove wisdom teeth early, while their roots are still small, even before the teeth have come in through the gums. This allows for easier removal, fewer complications, and faster healing.