

## What you should know about wisdom teeth!

May damage nearby teeth

Bacteria from infection could lead to systemic problems with the heart and kidneys

A cyst or tumor could develop and damage nerves or bone

Greater chance of chronic periodontal disease

Removal can improve overall dental hygiene

## Wisdom Teeth—Reasons for Removal

By PBHS

*Wisdom teeth, both impacted and erupted, can cause a variety of problems if they are not removed. This article reviews reasons to remove wisdom teeth and explores consequences if they are left in.*

Maintaining good oral hygiene in the wisdom tooth area is very difficult for any patient. Furthermore, the gingival tissue in the wisdom tooth area does not have the ability to attach to the wisdom tooth as gingiva attaches elsewhere. Even patients with impeccable oral hygiene will not be able to keep the area clean and bacteria free.

Consequently, the periodontitis affecting the wisdom tooth can extend to the adjacent 2nd molar. A recent study of 6,000 patients, ages 18-35,



concluded that due to the presence of wisdom teeth the incidence of gingivitis and periodontitis doubles! Additionally, if gingivitis and periodontitis are detected only around the wisdom teeth, the odds of finding periodontitis in other teeth within a six year time period are five times greater!

Caries can also affect the wisdom tooth. Recent studies have shown that 40% of patients, ages 23-34, have experienced caries in their wisdom teeth. It also has been noted that when caries are present in the first and second molars the patient will have a very high probability of developing caries in the wisdom teeth within 3 years!

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