



*Comprehensive dental care for persons with special needs*

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## INFORMATION REGARDING TOOTH EXTRACTION

It is the philosophy of our dental practice to preserve the entire dentition (set of teeth) of our patients. We recognize the importance of maintaining all teeth in order to support appearance, function, as well as the overall oral habits of our patients. However, there are situations where tooth extraction is the best or only treatment option for the overall and long-term health of the patient. We choose this option carefully.

Please read the following information, and contact our office in advance to discuss any questions you may have with the attending dentist before signing the consent form for comprehensive dental treatment. This list is intended to review the most common risks associated with tooth extraction, however it is not limited to the following:

- Postoperative discomfort and swelling that may require several days of at-home recuperation
- Prolonged or heavy bleeding that may require additional treatment or surgery
- Injury or damage to the adjacent teeth, fillings, tooth restorations or bridge work
- Postoperative infection that may require additional treatment including hospitalization and surgery
- Stretching of the corners of the mouth that may cause cracking and bruising that may heal slowly
- Restricted mouth opening and pain sometimes related to swelling and muscle soreness
- The decision to leave a small piece of root in the jaw, when its removal would require extensive surgery or risk of other complications
- Injury to the nerve under the lower teeth may result in temporary numbness, pain or tingling of the chin, lip, cheek, gums or tongue. This condition may persist for several weeks, months or in rare situations, may be permanent. In very rare cases, when the nerve to the tongue is injured, an alteration in speech or taste may occur
- Opening of the maxillary sinus (a hollow space in the bone located above the upper teeth) that may require additional surgery or a course of antibiotics and nasal decongestants

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