

Why Extract Adult Teeth

Our patients often question extraction of permanent teeth as part of orthodontic treatment. (the collective size of all of teeth may be too large to comfortably fit the size of the jaw) There are three major reasons for extracting teeth.

- ❑ To reduce the protrusion of the front teeth; upper or upper and lower teeth. This improves lip posture, as well as overall appearance, and patient self-esteem.
- ❑ To resolve crowding that will not allow straightening of the teeth without creating excessive forward lean of the front teeth or expansion of the arch thereby placing the teeth in a wider and unstable configuration. This may also cause an open-bite of the front teeth where they are no longer able to make contact when chewing. The forward or outward lean of the teeth may also help create recession or shrinkage of the overlying gum tissue of the teeth that have been leaned forward.
- ❑ The third reason is to prevent or close an anterior open-bite by closing the extraction spaces and up righting the front teeth so that they can erupt further, allowing contact of the front teeth.

When recommending extractions, future adult changes of a growing individual are taken into consideration. The majority of patients have wisdom teeth developing at the back of the mouth that may place additional forward arch pressure especially in the upper arch. This could result in post treatment protrusion of the front teeth. As well, studies show that crowding of our teeth increases as we grow older so some compensation must be incorporated into the treatment.

Prior to recommending adult tooth extractions, the following is taken into consideration; the size of the teeth, the bite, spacing or crowding, and patient profile. Once tooth extractions have been finalized, a request letter will be forwarded to your family dentist.