



**Sennik LTD T/A**  
**Chigwell Dental Surgery & Anaesthetic Clinic**  
723 Chigwell Rd  
Woodford Bridge  
Essex  
IG8 8AS  
Tel 02085048636  
[info@chigwelldental.com](mailto:info@chigwelldental.com)  
[Chigwelldp.com](http://Chigwelldp.com)

## TOOTH EXTRACTION

Having a tooth removed is a surgical procedure and as such carries a few risks.

Here are some of the common reasons why teeth are removed:

- pain
- abscess
- tooth decay
- gum disease
- prosthetics (false teeth)
- to correct irregular teeth, remove extra teeth or to make space.
- cosmetic (for appearance)

Sometimes, having a tooth removed can affect nearby teeth.



### What is involved in removing a tooth?

Usually, tooth removal is straightforward and takes a few minutes. You should not feel pain during the procedure but you will feel pressure and hear noises.

If any stitches are needed these will dissolve in about 2-4 weeks.

Keep the area very clean while it heals – your dentist will tell you how best to do this.

### What should I expect afterwards?

- Some slight bleeding is normal for a day or so - this can be controlled with pressure over the area.
- Your dentist will advise you about using painkillers to help ease any pain.
- Some swelling and bruising are normal and usually at its worst on the second day, but should disappear within a week or two.
- You might also have difficulty opening your mouth wide; again this generally returns to normal within a week or two.
- Any stitches you have will fall out by themselves in about 2-4 weeks.



**Sennik LTD T/A**  
**Chigwell Dental Surgery & Anaesthetic Clinic**  
723 Chigwell Rd  
Woodford Bridge  
Essex  
IG8 8AS  
Tel 02085048636  
[info@chigwelldental.com](mailto:info@chigwelldental.com)  
[Chigwelldp.com](http://Chigwelldp.com)

- You may need to take time off work or school – your dentist will advise you about this.

### **Removal of upper molar teeth**

The roots of upper molar teeth may be close to the sinuses in your nose.

Very rarely, after removal of a tooth there can be fracture of the supporting bone and pain in the surrounding area. This may require treatment by a specialist oral surgeon in hospital.

Any risks will be explained by your dentist.

### **Removal of lower molar teeth**

Some teeth are very close to nerves in the lower jaw. This can cause numbness, pain or tingling to the tongue, lip and chin area. If this happens, it is usually temporary but occasionally it can be permanent.

Your dentist is likely to take x-rays of the teeth which can help tell you whether your teeth are close to the nerves. Where there is a high risk of nerve injury you may be referred to a specialist oral surgeon.

Please discuss all of this with your dentist to help you understand what is involved.



### **Good dental hygiene**

Plaque is a clear, sticky film made up of bacteria and food debris that coats the surface of the teeth. Some of this bacteria turns the sugar in your mouth into acid, which in turn causes cavities and decay. Plaque bacteria can also cause gum disease.

To help prevent dental disease:

- Avoid snacks or acidic drinks between meals.
- Reduce your refined carbohydrate or sugar intake.
- Brush twice daily with fluoride toothpaste.
- Visit your dentist regularly.