

Exposure of Impacted Teeth

In some occasions, due to a discrepancy between jaw size and tooth size, a tooth can become impacted. Normally a **maxillary cuspid** is the last anterior tooth to erupt into place and is the second most commonly impacted tooth. If it gets impacted every effort is made to guide it into proper position in the dental arch. Treatment for this requires removal of any baby teeth blocking the permanent cuspid to allow spontaneous eruption. However if it does not erupt on its own you may need a referral to an oral surgeon to have the tooth exposed and bracketed. It is to the discretion of the surgeon to either simply leave the tooth exposed or attach a chain on it to tie to the orthodontic wire and bring it into occlusion. Light eruptive forces are applied. It may take up to a year to bring the tooth into occlusion. If a tooth has to be moved a long distance minor gum surgery may be required.

Mild redness and swelling may be present for the next few days after exposure of impacted teeth. Postoperative instructions:

- Warm salt water rinses
- Apply an ice pack 10 minutes on and off for that day
- Soft foods diet is recommended
- An over the counter pain medication for pain management
- Please see your orthodontist 10-14 days after exposure of the impacted tooth
- Do not hesitate to call our office with any questions/concerns

Parent/ Legal Guardian Signature

Date

Patient Name