

## Why do I need to come to hospital?

You have been referred to hospital to have your teeth or tooth roots extracted as your dentist feels the procedure requires specialist help. This may be due to the number of teeth being extracted, or because they present more difficulty or due to your medical condition needing extra monitoring. We have agreed that your operation needs to be carried out under general anaesthetic. This means you will be asleep. It is very important that you do not drive or operate machinery (this includes using kettles and cookers) for at least 24 hours following a general anaesthetic. You will also be advised not to drink alcohol before or after your anaesthetic. If you are a day-case patient, you will need a responsible adult to stay at home with you for 24 hours after the procedure.

## How long do I need to be in hospital?

These procedures are usually done during one day, but sometimes require an overnight stay. You will be in hospital for several hours, so please bring a book or magazine as there is likely to be a wait before your procedure. Please do not bring valuables into hospital as we are unable to take responsibility for them.

## Before your hospital admission

If you are having a planned operation, you might be invited to a preoperative assessment clinic a few weeks or days before your surgery. Usually, a nurse will telephone you instead to ask you some questions. Please bring with you or have available:

- Your current prescription or bring your medicines in their full packaging
- Any information you have about tests and treatments at your GP practice or other hospitals
- Information about any problems you or your family may have had with anaesthetics

You will be given clear instructions about when to stop eating and drinking before your operation. It is very important there is no food or liquid in your stomach during your anaesthetic.

If you are on medication, you should follow the specific instructions from the preoperative assessment team about how to take them on the day of the operation. You will be allowed a sip of water to take any tablets you need. If you take any 'blood thinning' drugs such as warfarin, clopidogrel or rivaroxaban, you will need to discuss whether or when you should stop taking them.

If you feel unwell when you are due to come into hospital, please telephone the ward for advice. We advise you to remove nail varnish or gel before coming to the hospital.

For more information about the risks and benefits of general anaesthesia refer to:

<https://www.rcoa.ac.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2020-02/02-YourAnaesthetic2020web.pdf>

## Risks and problems

Any risks or potential complications should be discussed at your consultation, before you sign your consent form. Please ask if there is anything that you do not understand.

## The procedure

When you are asleep you will have local anaesthetic in your gum. This helps to reduce bleeding and gives pain relief when you are awake. Some teeth or roots require drilling into the jaw bone to remove them. If this is the case a small cut will be made in the gum and closed afterwards using dissolving stitches.

## Will I be in any pain?

You will be advised to take regular painkillers (for example paracetamol or ibuprofen) for several days after your surgery. This should help keep discomfort to a minimum. If, once you are home, you feel the pain is not improving please contact your dentist or us for further advice.

## Smoking

If you are a smoker, you should not smoke on the day of your operation, as this reduces the amount of oxygen in your blood. You should also not vape. Please avoid smoking after surgery, as it delays healing and increases the risk of infection. Queen Victoria Hospital has a no-smoking policy.

## Aftercare

Clear advice will be given to you about how to take care of your tooth sockets and stitches. This will also be written down for you with details of how to contact us if you need to.

Please be prepared to eat softer, cooled down or cold food for a day or so after your treatment. You may want to have some wide drinking straws ready for use at home.

## Will I need a follow up appointment?

This is not usually necessary. However, you may be seen by your own dentist.

## Further questions

It is important that you understand what this procedure involves and have talked through any concerns with your doctor beforehand. If you have any questions or concerns, please ask a member of the medical or nursing staff, or telephone:

**Switchboard 01342 414000**

and ask for the maxillofacial secretary of the named consultant. For urgent enquiries out of hours, please ask for the maxillofacial doctor on duty.

If you'd like to find out how you can support QVH, please visit [www.supportqvh.org](http://www.supportqvh.org)



## Teeth Extractions under General Anaesthetic

Please ask if you would like this leaflet in larger print or a different format.

Maxillofacial Unit  
Issue 4 – Ref. No: 0233  
Approved by the Patient Information Group  
Print Sept 2023 – Review Sept 2026

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