

Wisdom Teeth

Facts, Fantasy & Falsehoods

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What are Wisdom Teeth

- Dutch: *verstandskies*: far standing molar
- Arabic: *dens-al-a qel*: tooth of the mind
- Korean: *sa-rang-nee*: love teeth
- Japanese: *oyashirazu*: unknown to parents
- Hebrew: *shen bina*
- Latin: *dens sapientiae*
- Spanish: *muela de juicio*: molar of judgment

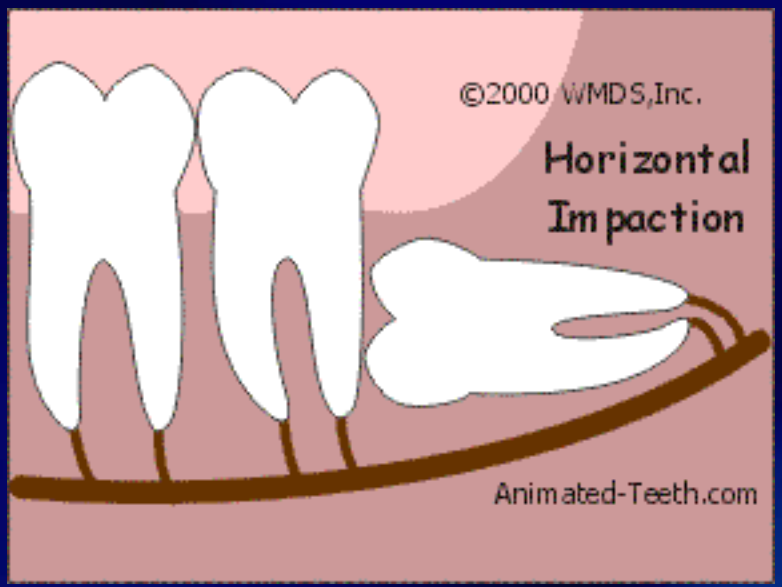
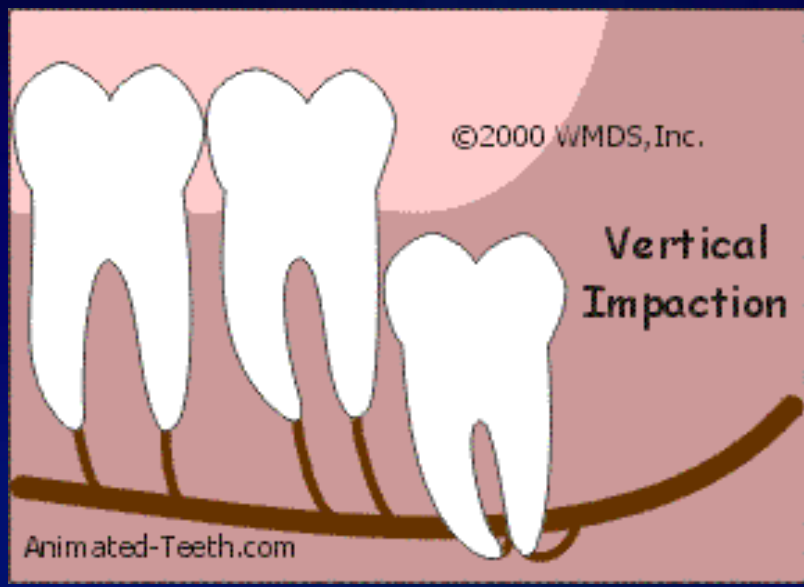
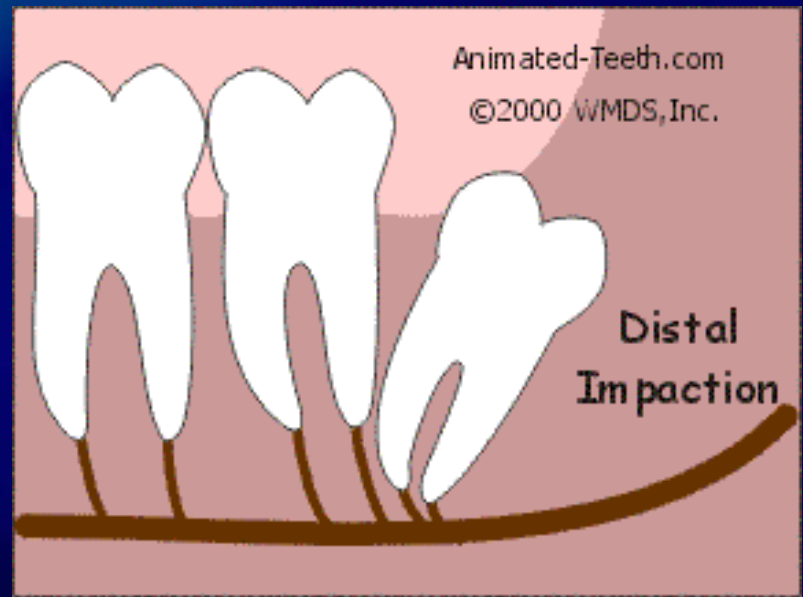
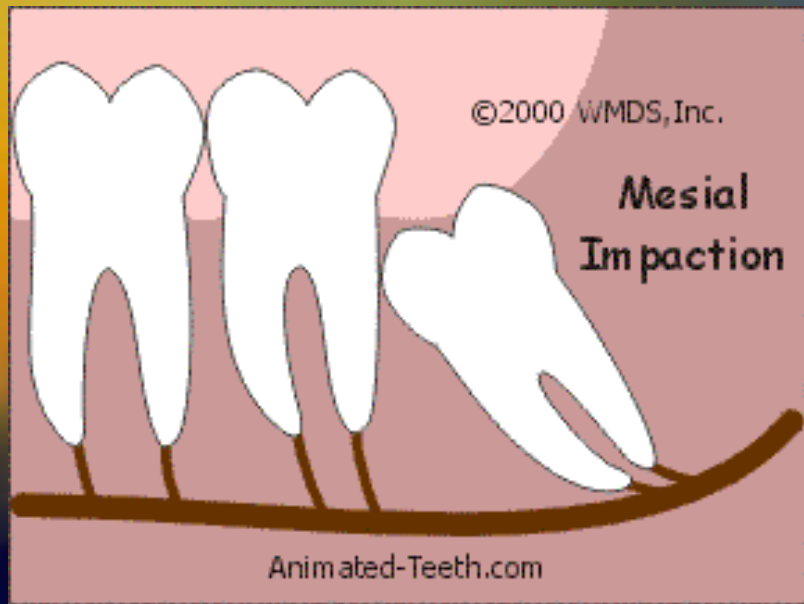
- Develop entirely after birth
- Highest % polymorphism, impaction, agenesis

Why do we have wisdom Teeth

- Size of Jaws
- Ancient Diet
- Ancient Function
- Give me a Job

Types of Wisdom Teeth

1. Erupted
2. Impacted
 - a. soft tissue
 - b. bony
 - I: mesioangular: 44%
 - II: vertical: 38%
 - III: distoangular: 6%
 - IV: horizontal: 3%



Why do we Extract Wisdom Teeth?

Strong Indications

- Poor Oral hygiene
- Pathology
- Orthodontic/Orthognathic
- Infection

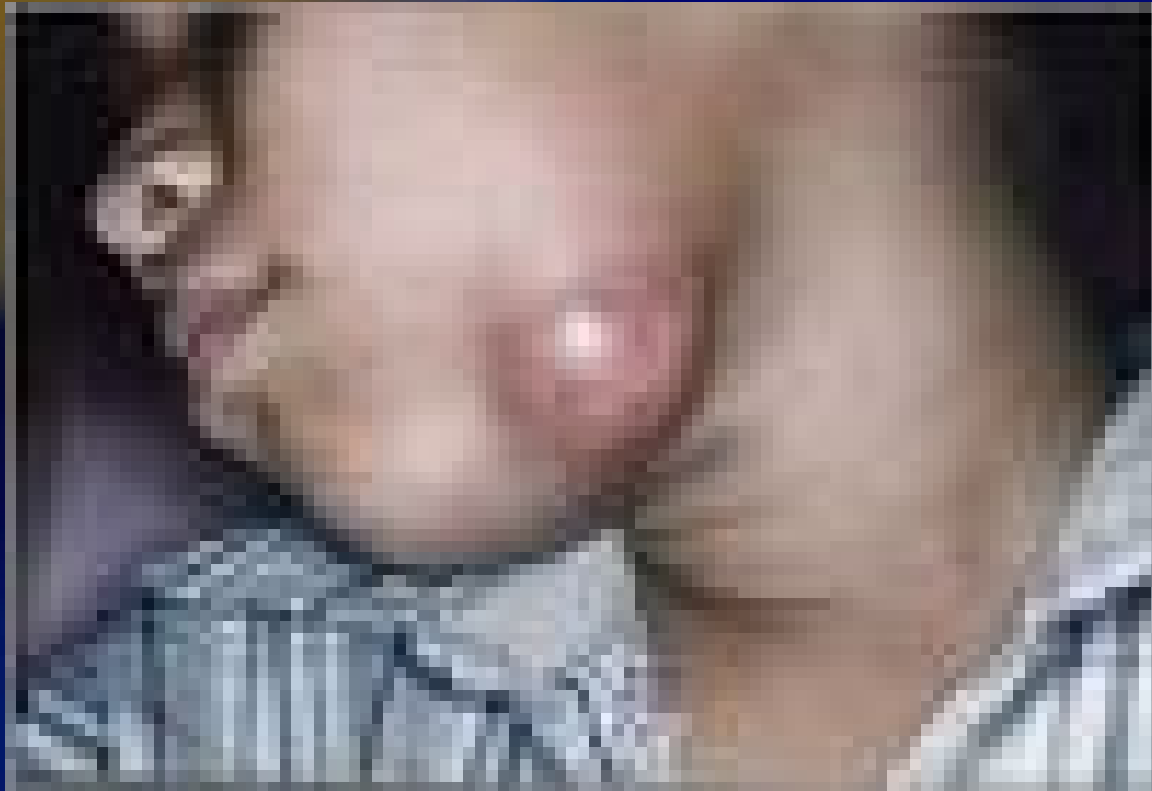
Relative Indications

- Risk to patient health: systemic or dental
- Crowding/space issues

Large Cavity

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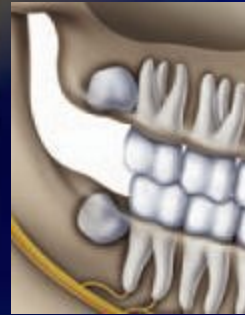


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When is best time to extract Wisdom Teeth?



12



14



17



25

Dentistry Position on Wisdom Teeth

AAMOS: AAOMS/OMSF study (white paper) strongly recommends wisdom teeth be removed by the time the patient is a young adult in order to prevent future problems and to ensure optimal healing. The researchers found that older patients may be at greater risk for disease, including periodontitis, in the tissues surrounding the third molars and adjacent teeth.

Brits: National Institute for Health & Clinical Excellence: not recommend the elective removal of wisdom teeth

Summation: no clear cut clinical evidence to support or refute removal of asymptomatic WT

Extraction Process

- Referral by primary dentist
- Consultation with OMFS
- Surgery
- Post Surgery care

Consult

- Review medical history
- Evaluate patient
- Prepare for surgery

Surgery

- General anesthesia
- Local anesthesia
- Surgery Team

Post Surgery care

- Meds: analgesics & antibiotics
- Recovery: acute & at home
- Follow-up visit

Possible Complications

- Dry Socket
- Nerve Damage
- Infection

Wisdom Teeth in the 21st C.

- Potential distal abutment
- Potential replacement tooth
- Stem Cell