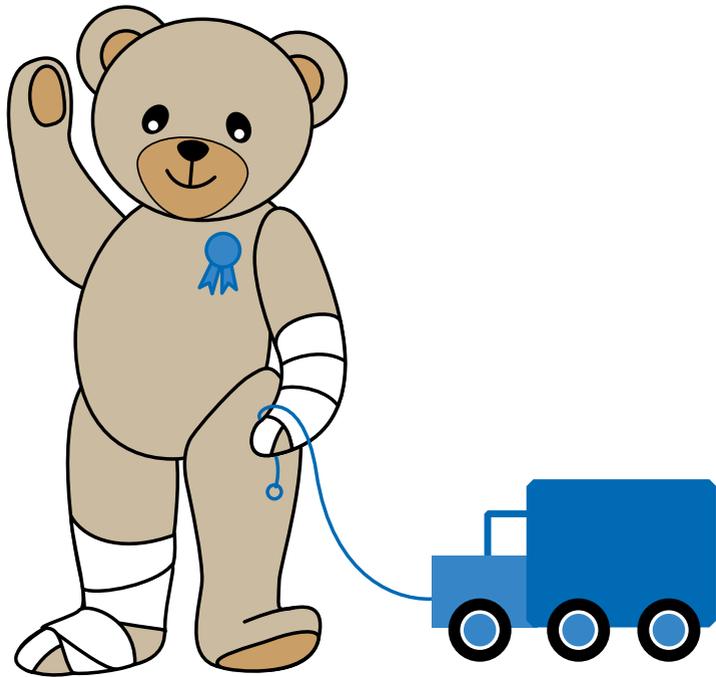


# Oral surgery

Paediatric Day Surgery Unit



Patient information leaflet

## What is oral surgery?

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Oral surgery is any surgery within the mouth, including dental treatment.

## Anaesthetic

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Following a general anaesthetic your child may feel tired and occasionally sick. They may vomit some old blood which has been swallowed, this is normal.

Local anaesthetic will wear off after a couple of hours.

## Bleeding

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- Your child's gums may ooze for a couple of days. It is quite normal for them to ooze a little. If you place a towel over your child's pillow at night it will help to prevent any staining.
- Please do not rinse or spit as this may cause further bleeding.

## Stitches

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Your child may have stitches in their mouth. These will be dissolvable if any stitches need to be removed you will be advised of this.

## Pain and swelling

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Some pain/discomfort may be felt initially so give your child Paracetamol/Ibuprofen for pain relief according to their age. If your child needs anything stronger, this will be provided by the ward. Give regularly for the first 48 hours and then as necessary.

Next dose of Paracetamol

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Next dose of Ibuprofen

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## Eating and drinking

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- Do not give your child anything too hot to eat or drink for the first 24 hours, as their gums may bleed.
- Please avoid giving anything too acidic or too rough in texture as this may cause pain and bleeding.
- Straws or spouts should not be used for drinks.

## Mouthwash and teeth cleaning

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- If your child is old enough to co-operate, a warm, salt water mouthwash is very soothing and will help to keep the area clean. This can be made by adding half a teaspoonful of salt to a glass of cooled boiled water. This should be gently rinsed around the mouth to help prevent infection. This needs to be done up to 4 times a day.
- Your child must not brush their teeth on the day of their operation, but may gently brush them from the following day onwards.

## School/activity

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It is advisable to keep your child off school for two days if they have had a general anaesthetic. They should avoid boisterous activities such as football, skateboarding or bicycling during this time.

## Is there any alternative treatment?

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No.

## What are the possible complications?

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- **Dry Socket:** This condition occurs when the blood clots that form over the extraction site are lost prematurely. The clots stop bleeding and protect the healing tissues underneath. If the clot is disturbed before the socket has healed, it can lead to areas of bone and nerve endings being exposed. This is relatively harmless but can be very painful. With good oral hygiene, the socket will heal without medical assistance. To reduce the risk of developing dry socket, avoid rinsing your mouth hard for at least 24 hours following the procedure. Fizzy drinks can also increase the risk of dry socket occurring.
- **Bruising and swelling:** Some bruising and swelling around the operation site is to be expected, especially if you have had impacted teeth removed. These symptoms are usually at their worst 2-3 days after the procedure and then gradually improve over the next week or so.
- **Infection:** There is a low risk of infection, but as a preventative measure your child may be given a dose of antibiotics into the blood stream during the procedure. If the operation site becomes very tender and hot, or you notice an unpleasant taste in your mouth a couple of days later, please make an appointment to see your own dentist as your child may have developed an infection. Smoking after surgery can also lead to infection and a delay in the healing process as it can prevent clots from forming.
- **Numbness:** Your child's mouth, lip, chin and nose may feel quite numb immediately after the procedure due to the local anaesthetic. This usually wears off in a few hours. However, in a small number of cases, the numbness can last longer, due to the bruising of the nerve that runs down the cheek and chin next to the jaw. This is more of a risk in wisdom teeth extractions, as the wisdom teeth sit close to the nerve in the jaw. This problem will usually resolve in a few days. Very rarely, the effect can be permanent, leading to numb areas on the chin or lower lip.

- **Bleeding:** If your child should start bleeding, get them to bite down on a clean handkerchief. The handkerchief should be rolled into a sausage shape and pushed into the place where the tooth was removed and then get your child to bite down onto it. If the bleeding does not stop within half an hour, please contact the Royal Surrey County Hospital Switchboard on – **01483 571122** and ask for the Maxillofacial Doctor on-call.

## General Practitioner's (GP) letter

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A letter will be sent to your child's GP and Dentist/Orthodontist giving brief details of your child's admission. You will be given a copy of this on discharge in case of emergency.

## Follow-up

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If a follow-up is necessary, the appointment will be made for you.

## Key reference source

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- Lead Consultant, Day Surgery Unit, Royal Surrey County Hospital.
- British Association of Oral Surgeons
- Oral Health Foundation





## Contact details

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### Day Surgery Unit

**Telephone:** 01483 406783, Monday to Friday, 8am–8pm

### Hascombe Children's Ward

**Telephone:** 01483 464071 (24 hours)

### Accident & Emergency

**Telephone:** 01483 464156 (24 hours)

### Royal Surrey County Hospital

**Telephone:** 01483 571122 and ask for the Maxillofacial Doctor on-call.

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## PALS and Advocacy contact details

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Contact details of independent advocacy services can be provided by our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) who are located on the right hand side as you enter the main reception area. PALS are also your first point of contact for health related issues, questions or concerns surrounding RSCH patient services.

**Telephone:** 01483 402757

**Email:** [rsc-tr.pals@nhs.net](mailto:rsc-tr.pals@nhs.net)

**Opening hours:** 9.00am–3.00pm, Monday to Friday

If you would like information documents in large print, on tape or in another language or form please contact PALS.

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Future review date: November 2020

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