

# Wisdom Tooth Management

**Pain or no pain:**  Your wisdom teeth should be checked annually.

**9 of 10**

people have at least one impacted wisdom tooth.



## Did you know?

It is less complicated to remove wisdom teeth when the patient is younger because:



The roots are not completely formed.



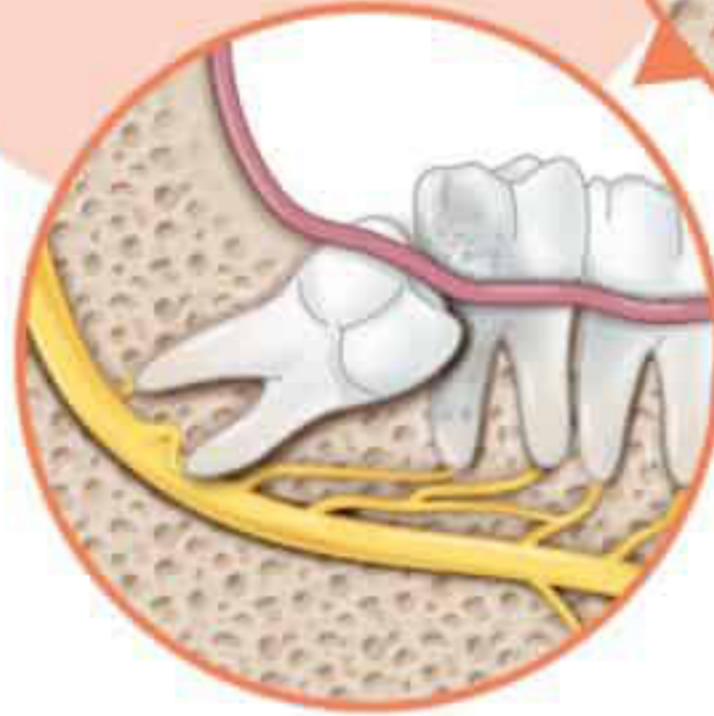
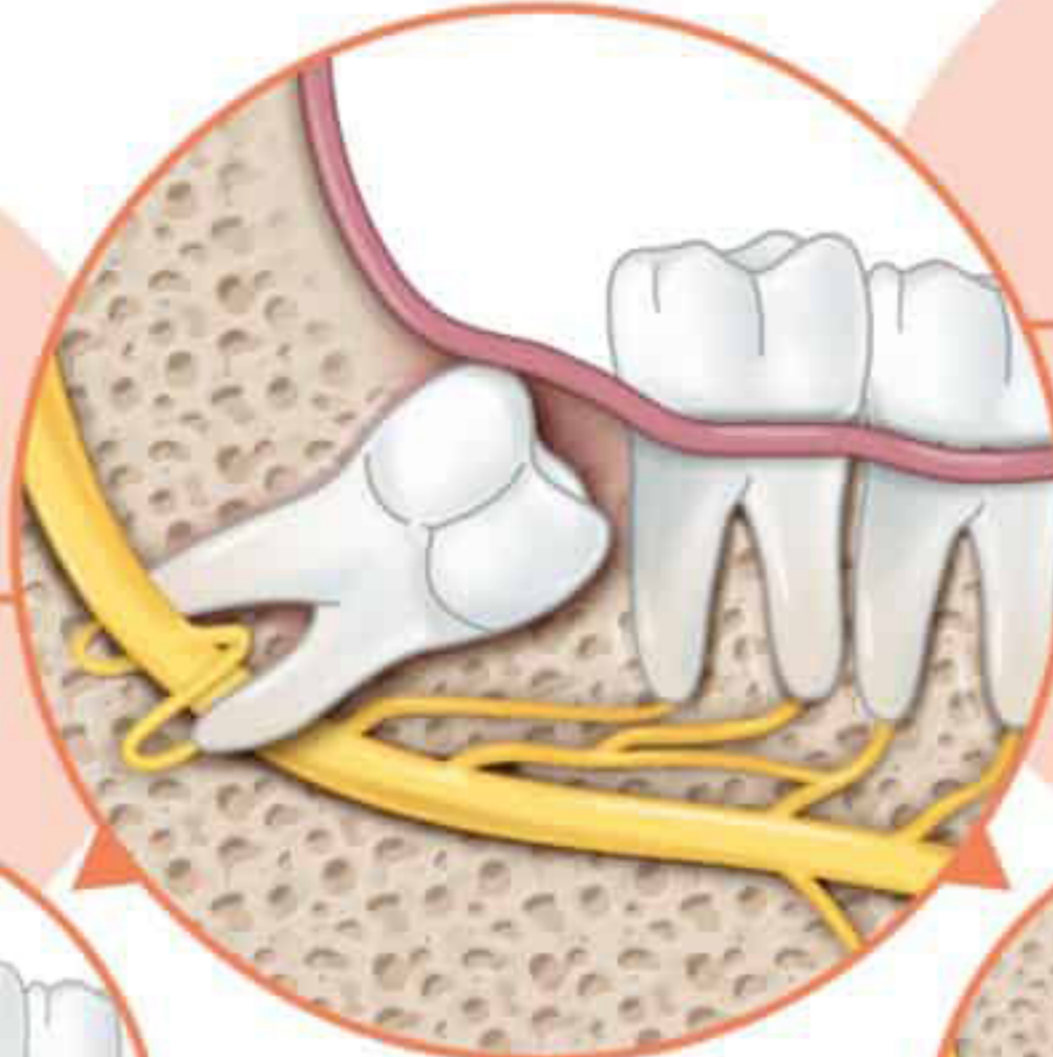
Surrounding bone is softer.



There is less chance of damaging nearby nerves or other structures.

## Is an impacted wisdom tooth serious?

Yes! Complications can arise, including:



Damage to adjacent teeth



Infection



Formation of cysts

## What is an impacted tooth?

When wisdom teeth cannot break through the gums, or there isn't enough room for them.

## When should they be removed?

Generally, wisdom teeth should be surgically removed when there are:

- Infections and/or periodontal (gum) disease
- Cavities that can't be restored
- Cysts, tumors or other pathologies
- Damaged neighboring teeth

## What if they are not removed?

Healthy, properly positioned wisdom teeth require:

- Regular, professional cleanings
- Annual checkups
- Periodic X-rays to monitor for changes

○ **Third molars (known as wisdom teeth):** The last teeth to develop and appear in the mouth ○



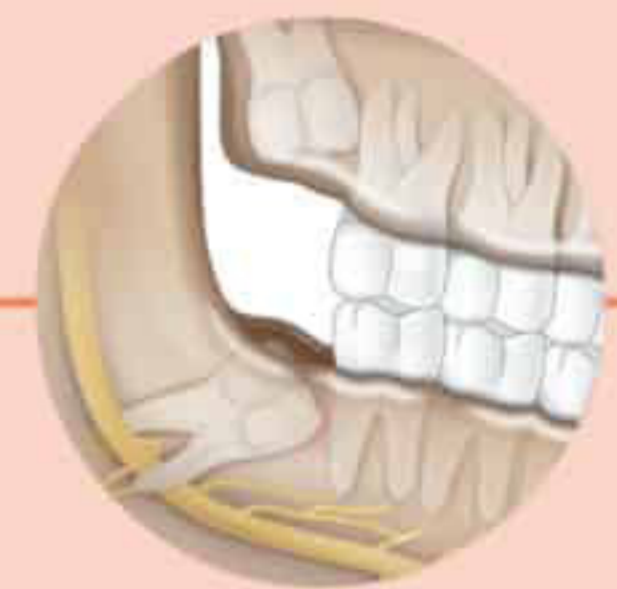
12 Years



14 Years



17 Years



25 Years

## "Age of Wisdom"

Ages 17 to 25, when third molars come in.

**Pain-free does not necessarily mean disease-free. The worst thing to do is to ignore your wisdom teeth.**



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