

Oral Surgeon in Boston: A Guide from Boston Dental

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Boston Dental has developed an informational guide for anyone researching an oral surgeon in Boston, including the conditions these specialists commonly treat, how referrals and consultations work, and what may occur before and after a procedure. Oral surgery covers a broad range of treatments involving the teeth, gums, jaw, and surrounding facial structures, making an accurate diagnosis an important first step in determining the appropriate level of care.

An oral and maxillofacial surgeon is a dental specialist with advanced education and clinical training in surgical procedures involving the mouth, jaw, and face. Common reasons for visiting this type of specialist include impacted wisdom teeth, difficult tooth extractions, dental implant placement, jaw irregularities, facial injuries, oral infections, bone loss, and certain growths or abnormalities within the mouth.

Not every extraction requires surgical care. A general dentist can often remove a tooth that is fully visible and accessible. Referral to a specialist may be recommended when a tooth is impacted beneath the gum, severely broken, positioned near a nerve, surrounded by infection, or otherwise difficult to remove. Medical history, age, bone structure, and the complexity of the case may also influence the referral decision.

Wisdom tooth removal is among the most familiar oral surgery procedures. Wisdom teeth typically develop at the back of the mouth and may not have enough room to emerge properly. An impacted tooth can remain partly or completely covered by gum or bone. Potential concerns include discomfort, swelling, infection, damage to a neighboring tooth, or the development of a cyst around the impacted area.

The presence of wisdom teeth does not automatically mean removal is necessary. Dental imaging and an examination help determine position, development, available space, and possible effects on surrounding structures. Monitoring may be appropriate when wisdom teeth are healthy, properly positioned, easy to clean, and free from disease. Surgical removal may be discussed when existing or foreseeable problems are identified.

Dental implants are another common reason for oral surgery. An implant is a small post placed into the

jawbone to support a replacement tooth, bridge, or denture. Successful treatment depends on adequate bone, healthy gum tissue, careful planning, and consistent oral hygiene. Three-dimensional imaging may be used to evaluate bone volume and identify the location of nerves, sinuses, and nearby teeth.

Some implant cases require additional preparation. Bone grafting may be performed when the jaw lacks sufficient structure to support an implant. In the upper back portion of the mouth, a sinus lift may be considered when additional bone height is needed below the sinus cavity. These procedures may take place before implant placement or, in selected situations, at the same appointment.

A consultation with an oral surgeon in Boston generally begins with a review of dental concerns, current symptoms, medical conditions, medications, allergies, and previous treatment. X-rays or three-dimensional scans may be examined to understand the exact position of the teeth and surrounding anatomy. The consultation should also address the recommended procedure, alternatives, possible complications, expected recovery, and preparation instructions.

Anesthesia and sedation options vary according to the procedure, medical history, and level of patient anxiety. Local anesthesia numbs the treatment area while allowing the patient to remain awake. Sedation may be used to promote relaxation, and general anesthesia may be appropriate for certain complex procedures. Specific fasting, transportation, and medication instructions depend on the type of anesthesia selected.

Following preparation instructions is an important part of surgical safety. Certain medications or supplements may need to be discussed in advance because of possible effects on bleeding, healing, or anesthesia. Changes should not be made without guidance from the prescribing health professional and the surgical team. Arranging transportation and post-procedure assistance may also be necessary when sedation is involved.

Recovery differs by procedure. Mild bleeding, swelling, soreness, and temporary dietary limitations are common after many oral surgeries. Swelling may increase during the first few days, then gradually improve. Written aftercare instructions typically cover medication use, oral hygiene, activity restrictions, food choices, and ways to protect the surgical area.

After a tooth extraction, a blood clot forms in the socket and supports the healing process. Vigorous rinsing, smoking, using straws, or disturbing the area may interfere with the clot. Loss of the clot can expose underlying bone and cause a painful condition commonly known as dry socket. Following care instructions can reduce the likelihood of this complication.

Soft foods are often recommended during the early part of recovery. Foods that require heavy chewing or

contain sharp, crunchy pieces may irritate the surgical site. Hydration remains important, although beverage temperature and drinking methods may be restricted immediately after treatment. Normal eating habits can usually return gradually as comfort and healing improve.

Warning signs should receive prompt attention. Increasing pain after initial improvement, persistent bleeding, difficulty breathing or swallowing, fever, spreading swelling, pus, or an unusual reaction to medication may require an immediate call to the treatment provider. Temporary numbness can occur after procedures near facial nerves, but unexpected or prolonged sensory changes should also be reported.

Oral surgery may also be used to treat infections that have spread beyond a tooth. Dental infections can sometimes move into the jaw, facial tissues, or deeper spaces of the head and neck. Drainage, extraction, root canal treatment, antibiotics, or a combination of care may be required depending on the source and severity of the infection. Antibiotics alone may not resolve a problem caused by a damaged or infected tooth.

Corrective jaw surgery addresses certain differences in jaw position that affect chewing, speaking, breathing, or facial balance. Treatment typically requires coordination between an oral and maxillofacial surgeon and an orthodontic provider. Because the process can involve extensive planning and recovery, detailed discussions about goals, timing, risks, and expected changes are essential.

Oral surgeons may also evaluate cysts, unusual tissue changes, persistent sores, and other abnormalities. A biopsy can help identify the nature of a suspicious area by removing a small tissue sample for laboratory examination. Many oral changes are not cancerous, but areas that persist, grow, bleed, or change appearance should not be ignored.

Selecting a surgical provider involves more than locating a nearby office. Relevant considerations include training, experience with the recommended procedure, anesthesia capabilities, hospital affiliations when applicable, communication practices, emergency availability, and coordination with the referring dentist. A clear explanation of the diagnosis and proposed care can help support informed decision-making.

Insurance coverage varies according to the procedure and the reason treatment is needed. Some services may be processed through dental insurance, medical insurance, or both. Preauthorization may be required, and coverage does not always indicate that every related service is included. Written treatment estimates and direct confirmation with the insurance provider can clarify expected responsibilities before surgery.

Boston Dental notes that oral surgery decisions should be based on a complete examination, appropriate imaging, medical history, and the needs of the individual case. Early evaluation may make it easier to address pain, infection, impacted teeth, bone loss, or other concerns before additional complications develop.

Oral surgery can sound intimidating, but understanding the purpose of treatment, available anesthesia options, recovery process, and possible alternatives can make the experience more manageable. A well-planned consultation provides the information needed to evaluate the recommendation, prepare for the procedure, and support a safe recovery.

About Boston Dental:

Boston Dental offers a suite of dental and aesthetic services that include preventive, restorative, and cosmetic treatments. The practice emphasizes a technical approach to smile design, where practitioners evaluate dimensions, curvature, and coloring to suit a patient's unique facial structure. Treatment plans are developed by a team of dentists and surgeons who utilize advanced imaging technology and premium materials to address various dental needs. Services available across three Boston locations include teeth whitening, ceramic veneers, and orthodontic options such as Invisalign and lingual braces.

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