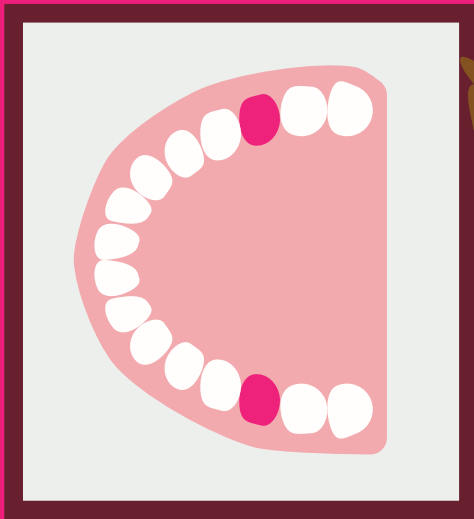


Specialist Paediatric Dental Service

# Poor Prognosis First Permanent Molars



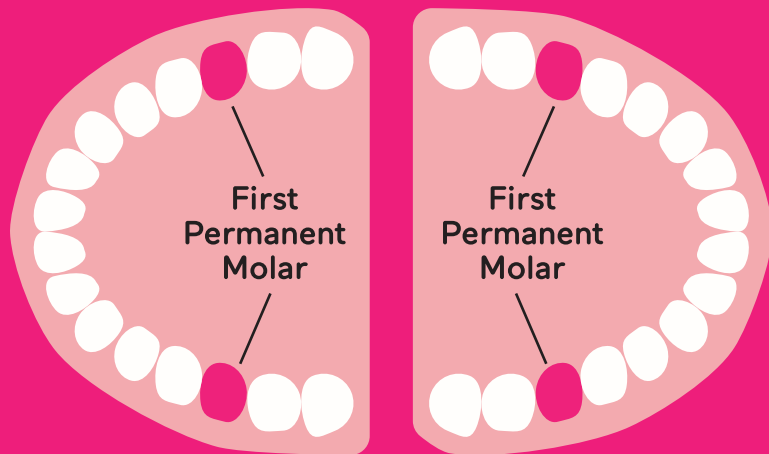
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## What is a Poor Prognosis First Permanent Molar?

The first adult molars are the 6th tooth from the centre.

These teeth are one of the first adult teeth to come through, behind the last baby tooth, and can be more at risk to decay. They are called poor prognosis when they have decay or are poorly formed and not expected to be a functioning tooth for life, even with dental treatment.



## What causes the decay?

- Increased sugar in the diet, especially between mealtimes
- Poor tooth brushing

Some children have other conditions that make their teeth more at risk to decay. One of these conditions is called Molar Incisor Hypomineralisation (MIH).



## Will the teeth be removed?

- Removing the tooth (extraction) is generally the treatment of choice. If done at the right age, the second permanent molar can grow (erupt) to fill the gap.
- The ideal age for removal of the tooth is between 8 and 11 years of age. This gives the adult tooth behind the best chance of growing into the space and replacing the removed tooth.
- Sometimes additional healthy teeth require extraction. If the bottom tooth is poor, the top one can keep growing down into the space left behind by an extraction. This can cause problems with bite so it may be advised to remove both the top and bottom first permanent molars at the same time.
- Sometimes teeth can be a bit unpredictable when erupting (appearing out of the gum). There is a risk that the second permanent molar may not grow straight or may not fully close the gap. This may need further corrective treatment in the future.



## What are the options if I don't want an extraction?

If the preferred option is to try and keep the tooth it may involve:

- A large filling, root canal or other treatment, for example, a crown. However, these treatments are unlikely to last long in a poor prognosis tooth.
- If there is pain or the treatment fails, the tooth could still end up being removed at a later date. However, if this done at too late an age, the chance for the second permanent molar to grow into the space may have been missed.

## For further help or information

Contact details

## What if I have a comment, suggestion, compliment or complaint about the service?

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