

Specialist Paediatric Dental Service

Early Removal of Baby Teeth



Why is the early removal of baby teeth needed?

Severe Decay

The most common reason for needing a baby tooth removed is severe decay, which can cause pain and infection. This can cause children to struggle to eat or brush their teeth. Bad infections can sometimes need hospital treatment. Some children get abscesses, swollen faces or become poorly due to sepsis.

Balancing Extractions

These are where a healthy or saveable baby tooth is removed to stop the front teeth from moving to one side and causing a wonky smile. This is often recommended for the baby canine (fang) tooth.

? Are there any side-effects to the early removal of baby teeth?

Baby teeth help to guide the adult teeth through so if the baby teeth are lost early:

- The teeth can come through crowded. If suitable, braces may be needed at the appropriate age.
- The adult teeth might arrive a bit earlier or later. Adult teeth usually start to arrive at the age of 6 to 7 and most of them have arrived by the age of 13 years old.



Will my child be able to eat after extractions?

Children adapt very well to changes in their mouth, though softer foods will be easier to eat to start with.



Fillings or tooth extraction

It's good to get children used to simpler dental treatment first to help build their confidence. If decayed teeth can be saved through fillings this will be tried first. This also helps to minimise the use of general anaesthetic (when they go to sleep for treatment) as there is a small risk of a serious adverse reaction.



How do I prevent my child from needing more tooth extractions?

Regular tooth brushing

- Brush in the morning and last thing at night.
- Until at least 7 years old of age, brush your child's teeth to make sure they have not missed any areas.
- Use of 1450ppm fluoride toothpaste. Look for the ppm number in the ingredients. It's usually in the small print.
- Don't rinse after brushing, just spit out excess toothpaste.

Reduce sugar intake

- Drink water or milk between meals and only water before bed and during the night.
- Save sugary snacks or drinks for meal times. Examples of drinks that cause decay include 'no added sugar' dilute and fruit juices.

Regular dental check-ups

If your child has already had decay, they are at higher risk of developing further cavities. It is important to be seen at your dentist regularly, sometimes every 3 months to help prevent further issues.

Regular fluoride varnish

Where suitable, fluoride varnish can be applied every 3 months by a dental professional to help strengthen teeth.

Fissure sealants

These are coatings placed on the teeth to protect them from decay.

Prescription toothpaste

If your child is over 10 years old your dentist can prescribe high fluoride toothpaste to help protect the teeth.

For further help or information

Contact details

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

Contact our Customer Care Team on **01482 347627** or by emailing: **chcp.customercare@nhs.net**

We are always looking at ways to improve services. Your feedback allows us to monitor the quality of our services and act upon issues that you bring to our attention.

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