

## Orthodontic Department

You will be treated under  
the care of Consultants:-

Mr J.D Muir

Mr J Shah

Mr J.M Scholey

Miss K.J Jiggins

Miss L Mangnall

Miss S Kotecha

We are a teaching  
department so we have  
other dental care  
professionals that may  
participate in your  
treatment. Our  
department includes  
Senior Registrars,  
Registrars, Clinical  
Assistants and Dental  
Nurses.

## Orthodontic Department

**Tel No: 674653**

Monday to Friday

9.00am to 1.00pm

2.00pm to 4.30pm

Visit our  
Website

[www.uhns.nhs.  
uk](http://www.uhns.nhs.uk)

Click on 'our  
services'  
then  
'orthodontics'



University Hospital of North  
Staffordshire

## Orthodontic Department

Surgical Exposure  
of Impacted  
Teeth



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## Surgical Exposure of Teeth

### Why is this procedure necessary?

Occasionally some teeth develop in the wrong position and fail to erupt into the mouth. The most common teeth affected are the canine teeth or "eye teeth". The buried canine tooth is usually positioned in the roof of the mouth but can be on the other side of the teeth, next to the upper lip.

In order for the orthodontist to be able to move the tooth into the mouth with braces, it will first be necessary to expose the tooth surgically and attach a gold chain to it. The orthodontist will then attach the other end of the chain to the fixed brace and slowly pull the tooth into position.

### How is the procedure carried out?

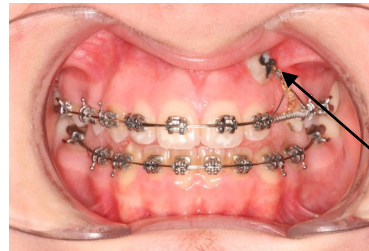
A day case general anaesthetic is usually necessary for this procedure, but depending on age and cooperation it can sometimes be done with a local anaesthetic.

An incision (cut) will first be made in the gum. Any bone overlying the top of the tooth will be removed to expose the crown of the tooth.

A small gold chain will be attached to the tooth with a special type of glue. The gum will be repositioned over the tooth and secured with dissolvable stitches.

The chain may be secured to the gum with a black stitch. This stitch will be removed by your Orthodontist at your next orthodontic appointment.

x-ray of a bracket & chain on an impacted upper canine



gold chain attached to the fixed orthodontic appliance

### What happens after the operation?

After the operation your mouth is likely to feel sore and tender for a few days and you will be advised to take painkillers eg. Paracetamol.

It is important to keep cleaning your teeth as usual, paying particular attention to cleaning around the operation site. You will be advised to rinse your mouth with hot salt water mouthwashes and/or Corsodyl mouthwash.

**You should have an appointment to see your Orthodontist 1 to 2 weeks after the operation.**

**Please check that you have this made prior to your operation.**

### Might I encounter any problems?

As with any type of surgery, certain problems could occur following the operation:

- ◆ Infection – the area around the exposed teeth may become red, swollen and increasingly tender after the operation. This may be an indication of infection and you should contact the Oral & Maxillofacial Department.
- ◆ It is possible that the gold bracket may fall off the tooth some time after the operation. Although very unlikely, if this were to happen, it may be necessary to repeat the surgical procedure.
- ◆ Rarely, the teeth on either side of the exposed tooth may be slightly loose following the operation. If this happens, it is important that you do not bite / chew hard foods with these teeth. It may be several weeks before they feel firm again.