



Dr Angelo Lazaris is a leading expert in general and cosmetic dentistry. Using the latest state-of-the art technology and techniques, clients are assured of the most advanced treatment available. A contributor to top fashion magazines, Dr Lazaris has performed procedures on Channel Nine's Body Work and Fox 8's Australia's Search for the Next Top Model.

Tooth in roof of mouth

Question:

I have a tooth in the roof of my mouth (completely covered. I can not feel it at all and did not know it was there until a few months ago after I had an x-ray). It never came down when I was a child. I still have the baby tooth where that tooth was supposed to go.

My dentist has told me I need to have the tooth in the roof of my mouth taken out and while they are doing that they may as well take out my wisdom teeth.

I am 29 in a few months and have never had any problems with any of these teeth. Do you think it is necessary for any of them to be taken out?

Answer:

Impacted teeth are a relatively common dental problem and each case needs to be assessed on its individual merits. Statistically, up to ten percent of impacted teeth are associated with pathology like cysts. If this is the case, they certainly need to be removed. Furthermore, if it is adjacent to the roots of other teeth it could be eroding them and causing damage to the tooth roots.

If your wisdom teeth are partially erupted (sticking through the jawbone or gum), they are susceptible to frequent gum infections that can potentially be serious. If you have experienced trouble with your wisdom teeth, or if they are in such positions where they may compromise your health or adjacent teeth then it is always a consideration to have them removed.

Given that you do not seem to have experienced any trouble in the past, and assuming that the impacted teeth are not causing any pathology or symptoms, then you may elect to do nothing. A common attitude to minimally invasive dentistry is well illustrated by the adage "let sleeping dogs lie". If they haven't caused you problems so far, and you're 29, there's good odds they won't. The best thing to do in any case when you have doubts about dental treatment plans is to seek a second opinion.