Oral Surgeon's Treatment Options Are There for Impacted Canines?

When it comes to impacted teeth, the wisdom teeth are the most common. Most people are surprised to find out their canines are the next most common. It’s estimated that 2% of the population experiences impacted canines, many studies show that women are more common than men.

Ballista Spring Method

For extremely complex impacted canines, that genetic problem when they grow in directly above your front teeth. There is a procedure called the “ballista spring method” and it has proven to have a very good success rate. Now before you jump on google and type “ballista spring method for impacted teeth”. We must warn you it doesn’t look pleasant. However, if you watch the before and after pictures. They will probably have you forwarding to those friends and family members you send meme’s too.

(Best engagement is a before after inserted here. Very Small/medium picture)

Without getting too technical, the procedure can be summarized like this. Similar to braces, a hitching point (the notch on braces glued to all your teeth) is mounted to your teeth adjacent to the canines. Then a metal line is run from it and secured to your impacted canines. They sometimes will have to be surgically exposed for the attachment. Have no fear, our office will make the procedure painless and one you brag about to your friends with pictures. The metal line is connected between the two teeth and essentially, over a period time. It pulls your canines down at an angle as they grow in and guides them into place and their perfect position. This allows time for any other corrections that need to take place in the surrounding teeth to be addressed as well.

Extraction of Baby Teeth

(Again, another before and after. Show the removal of the baby teeth and its ability to allow the canines to slide into place)

If the impaction can be spotted early enough in children, a great option is the removal of the blocking tooth if it is a baby tooth. This depends on the intended angle at which the canines will travel when they erupt. By having your children consistent in their dental care, these type of situations can be spotted. If at a young age it’s determined that one of the baby teeth is going to block the path of the permanent canines upon their arrival. The simple extraction of that tooth out of the way can allow for a successful transition into its place by the canine tooth. Having time to monitor the new tooth’s eruption will also allow the time needed to address any problems with the surrounding teeth throughout the process.

If you are currently experiencing an impacted tooth, please call our practice today. We would be happy to give you a 2nd opinion and even lay out some different options we know of. When it comes to Oral Surgery the procedure is only half of what needs to be considered. The professional that is executing the procedure should be experienced, knowledgeable of the issue that can arise, and willing to spend time with you to make sure you know the ins and outs of exactly what needs to take place and what to look for in problem signs. If you or a family either has an impacted tooth or your family history has a genetic line of impacted teeth, we can help. We have many clients who had their dentist point out the possibility of an impaction and by simply setting up a consultation, we were able to address the issue early with minor surgery and avoid major surgery down the road. Call today for questions or to get scheduled and eliminate some stress and worry.