Third molars (wisdom teeth) (1) are generally the last teeth to emerge in an individual's set of teeth (usually in late teens or twenties). Frequently, their eruption is blocked by soft tissue, bone, adjacent teeth (2) or some pathologic process. They are then considered impacted. Removal of these teeth is necessary to prevent decay of the adjacent teeth, possible infection, jaw pain and crowding of other teeth. Difficult impactions may require the skill of an Oral surgeon. Your General Dentist will determine the best course of action for you.