



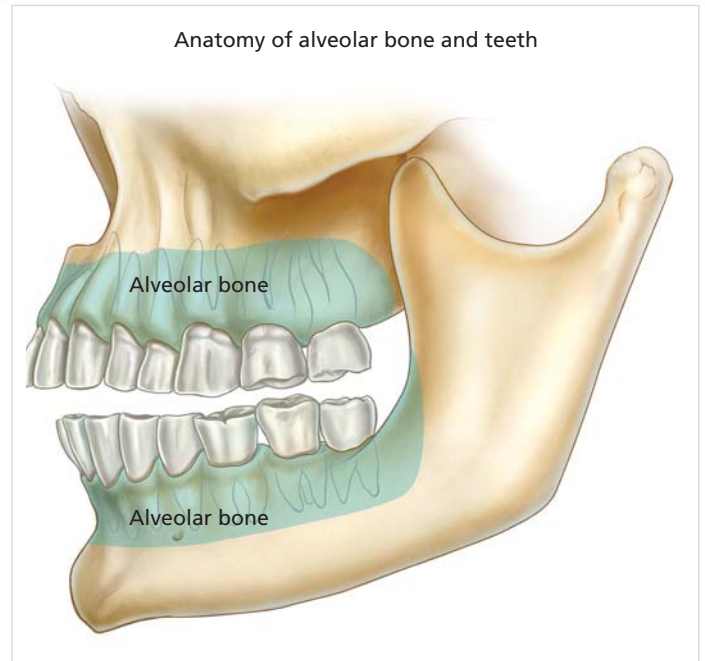
# DENTOALVEOLAR SURGERY

This online patient advisory is intended to provide you with general information. It is not a substitute for advice from your oral and maxillofacial surgeon. You are encouraged to discuss the benefits and risks of treatment with your surgeon. This is an abridged version of the ANZAOMS patient education pamphlet: "Dentoalveolar Surgery - patient information to assist informed consent". The complete four-page pamphlet is available from your surgeon. It discusses conditions, symptoms, diagnosis, treatment decisions, surgical treatments, recovery and possible complications of surgery.

A variety of problems with the teeth, gum, jawbone and other bony or soft tissues of the mouth may require treatment by an oral and maxillofacial surgeon.

Alveolar bone is the bone that surrounds and supports the teeth. Common procedures on the dentoalveolar bone include:

1. Extraction of a tooth or a retained root. The tooth or a retained root may be divided into segments so it can be removed easily and safely. Teeth are extracted less frequently these days, but sometimes extraction is the best treatment option.
2. Aids to orthodontics. This includes surgery to expose an unerupted tooth and help it move into its normal position. Also, an erupted tooth that is crowding other teeth may need to be removed.
3. Removal of a cyst or lesion. These require surgical excision for definitive management following diagnosis by the pathologist.
4. Removal of a root tip during root canal treatment (apicectomy). This procedure can help to clear infection within jawbone and help to save the tooth.
5. Oral pathology. If abnormal tissue occurs in the mouth, a small sample of the tissue may need to be removed (called a biopsy) and sent to a pathologist for diagnosis.
6. Aids to fitting of partial or complete dentures. Surgery to one or both dentoalveolar ridges may be needed to correct misshapen ridges, remove any abnormal tissue, or to remove buried teeth, retained roots or bone fragments.



## Your medical history

Your surgeon needs to know your medical history to plan the best treatment for you. Tell your surgeon about ALL medicines that you take and other health problems you may have. Some may interfere with surgery, medical treatment, anaesthesia and recovery.

## A decision to have surgery

As you make the decision whether to have surgical treatment, be sure that you understand the risks, benefits and limitations of the treatment options. Only you can decide if surgery is right for you. If you have any questions, ask your surgeon.

## Anaesthesia

Dentoalveolar surgery may be performed under local anaesthesia, local anaesthesia with conscious sedation, or general anaesthesia. Your surgeon will explain more about the type of anaesthesia that is best in your case.

## Possible risks and complications

Modern surgical techniques have greatly improved the outcomes. However, there are risks of complications, as with all types of surgery. Risks of complications and additional information are more fully outlined in the complete four-page ANZAOMS patient education pamphlet and should be discussed with your oral and maxillofacial surgeon. ©