

Whether considering wisdom tooth extraction to correct an actual problem or prevent problems in the future, an oral surgeon is a specialist who has the training, experience and treatment options to make sure you get the best care with minimal risk associated with surgery.

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## MAKE INFORMED CHOICES

For wisdom tooth removal and other oral surgical procedures, examine your choice of provider carefully. There are many dental providers that remove wisdom teeth, but some treatment plans should be a cause for concern. We recommend you seek a second opinion if you are being told that your dental provider has a surgeon that travels to their office.

To help decide on the best plan for you and your family, consider asking your dental provider the following questions:

**Q Will the procedure be performed by a board-certified Oral Surgeon?**

**A** Your surgeon should be accredited by the American Board of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery. The surgeon may also be a candidate actively seeking certification after completing four to six years of a certified residency in oral & maxillofacial surgery.

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**Q What level of anesthesia training does the surgeon/provider have?**

**A** Oral Surgeons are the only dental specialists who receive formalized general anesthesia training in residency. Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery is the only recognized dental specialty allowed to have a LEVEL 4 Anesthesia Permit in the state of Texas.

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**Q Is the facility designed for surgical procedures?**

**A** The Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery office is specifically designed for outpatient surgical and anesthetic procedures. The equipment is specific to oral surgery and is not regularly found within general dental facilities.

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**Q Has the facility/office undergone an Office Anesthesia Evaluation?**

**A** All Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery offices are required to have regular onsite anesthesia evaluations. This periodic evaluation is mandatory to obtain membership with the American Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons. The review is a critical component to maintaining the highest standard of care and monitoring. Oral Surgeons are required to have the most comprehensive anesthesia monitoring of all dentists offering sedative options.

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**Q Will I meet the surgeon prior to the day of the surgery?**

**A** It is preferred to have a preoperative consultation. This allows the surgeon to review your past medical history, perform an exam, take radiographs, and discuss in detail your surgical plan. You will have the opportunity to meet with staff to verify insurance.

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**Q What if there are problems during or after surgery?**

**A** Any untoward events will be managed by your Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon in a fixed routine setting. You may not have the opportunity to see a traveling dental surgeon for post operative complications and therefore, forcing your post op management upon your general dentist.

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**Q Would the cost be the same if I used a specialist like an Oral Surgeon?**

**A** Any in-network provider will have contracted rates that are universally comparable. This factors in specialists versus non-specialists. In short, the cost is very similar, and even possibly less expensive, with a higher level of specialized care.

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**Q Will your dentist receive any financial compensation for referral to a specialist?**

**A** It is against State Board rules to receive any compensation for a referral. Often times when a “surgeon” travels to your dentist’s office the dentist receives a portion of your fee.

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