

This is the VOA Special English Health Report.

..... are normally the last teeth to appear. This usually happens when people are in their late teen years or early ..... -- in other words, when they are .....

Wisdom teeth are molars, or ....., at the back of the mouth. The third set of ..... if you have them, are your wisdom teeth.

They can ..... normally and never cause a problem. But often there is not enough room for them in the mouth. They might crowd other teeth. Sometimes they even ..... through the gums.

An ..... wisdom tooth is one that ..... through the gums -- the term is erupt. Wisdom teeth that only ..... can leave space for ..... to enter around the tooth. ..... is a risk in these cases.

Wisdom teeth that are not well ..... and become impacted are often .....

People should have the ..... of their wisdom teeth ..... between the ages of sixteen and twenty. X-rays can show wisdom teeth that are below the gums.

The American Dental ..... says removal ..... when wisdom teeth only partly ..... the gums. Removal is also advised if there is a chance that ..... wisdom teeth will damage other teeth. And removal is called for in cases where ..... around a wisdom tooth that is ..... below the gum.

But why do we have wisdom teeth if we often need to get them removed? One ..... has to do with our diets. Scientists say the diet of ..... humans ..... required more chewing teeth. Life was probably a little ..... on the teeth back then, too. So it was good to have .....

The removal of wisdom teeth is performed by ..... They say if removal is advised, the best time to do it is before the teeth cause any problems or pain.

The American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons says young adults are the best ..... for wisdom teeth removal. The group says older patients may be at greater risk for disease in the ..... surrounding the molars.

Patients can have general ..... during the operation. Or they might choose to have a local ..... and remain awake. It may depend on the condition of the wisdom teeth and the number to be removed.

After surgery, there can be ..... of the gums and face and some pain. Both can be treated with cold wraps and .....

And that's the VOA Special English Health Report, written by Caty Weaver. I'm Shirley Griffith.