

The National Wisdom Tooth Study - Information for Patients

You have been given this leaflet because you are having third molar or 'wisdom tooth' treatment. We plan to collect data on the treatment given and its outcome for every UK patient who has a lower wisdom tooth taken out over a 3-month period in 2021. This information sheet explains why we want to do this and the benefits it will bring. Your surgeon and dentist would like you to take part in this study.

The troublesome wisdom tooth.

About 80,000 people every year in the UK have treatment for their wisdom teeth which grow into your mouth when you're a young adult. When wisdom teeth don't come into the mouth properly, lodged at different angles and positions, there can be many problems including pain, infection and decay, which all require different methods of treatment.

What is the National Wisdom Tooth Study?

The National Wisdom Tooth Study collects information about the treatment of lower wisdom tooth problems and uses it to measure the quality of patient care across the UK.

What is the purpose of the study?

Information from the study will have many uses including:

- To discover which treatments work best.
- To determine how care can be improved.
- To help plan future services for people with wisdom tooth problems.
- To measure the performance of your particular clinic.

Who is organising the study?

The research charity Saving Faces-The Facial Surgery Research Foundation manages the study, providing staff to work with your surgeons organising patient participation, as well as collecting, analysing and storing every patient's data safely and securely.

Saving Faces is helping the UK lead the world in finding the most effective treatments for all diseases, injuries and conditions of the mouth and face. This work needs your help, and the help of your surgeon. It means collecting data on large numbers of patients, sometimes over many years. We will seek funding for this study from national research organisations and sponsorship from the Joint Research Management Office (JRMO) of the world-famous St Bartholomews and the Royal London hospitals (Barts Health).

Why have I been chosen?

We are asking every patient in the UK who has surgery for lower wisdom tooth problems in a 3-month period in 2021 to take part in the study. The more people that join the study, the more meaningful and useful the results will be. Your surgeon, dentist and Saving Faces will be extremely grateful if you will agree to take part.

Do I have to take part?

No. We understand that some people will not want to, and this decision will not affect your treatment or your relationship with your surgeon in any way. Your care will be exactly the same whether you take part or not.

What are the benefits of taking part?

Patients who are in studies like this one benefit from the closer follow-up of the results of their surgery. Saving Faces will study the results of everybody (without their names or contact details) to work out which method works best. The information you give us will help determine best treatment practice for future patients.

Are there any disadvantages in taking part?

Your treatment will be decided by your surgeon, explained to you before your operation, and carried out in their normal way. The only difference with normal practice is that at 1 month and 9 months after your treatment you will be contacted by email to fill in a quick online survey (approximately 5 minutes) about your recovery and any problems you have had following the surgery.

How do I join the study?

Just read this information leaflet and sign the enclosed consent form. If you have any questions please ask the clinician performing your procedure. You will be joining thousands of other participating patients.

What information will be collected?

We will collect your name, date of birth, NHS number and contact details. Information about your treatment will be collected by your surgeon at the time of your operation and you will be able to provide answers regarding how you feel about the outcome of your treatment in the surveys you complete 1 and 9 months later.

How will information about me be stored?

The information will be stored on a digital platform called REDCap (Research Data Collection Service). This is a secure internet-based data collection system. Saving Faces is the data controller, and only Saving Faces and your operating surgeon will be able to view all your information.

Will my privacy be protected?

Your privacy will be protected at all times. Your data will never be given or sold to any person or other organisation. When collecting medical information there are very strict rules about confidentiality, including those of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018. Saving Faces must follow these rules and we will keep your information safe and secure. The researchers at Saving Faces will use the personal contact details you provided in order to contact you in the future to check the outcome of your treatment as part of work that has been approved by the Research Ethics Committee.

What will Saving Faces do with my information?

Your data will be combined with thousands of other patients in an anonymous way with the aim of studying the data to improve wisdom tooth treatment. The anonymised results with all the patients will then be analysed together. The results of the analysis will be written up in reports which will be published in scientific journals to spread the word about findings that should improve treatment.

We will need to keep your identifiable data during the study so we can match your surgery treatment to the results of this 9 months later. Once we have finished our analysis of the 9-month data, we will hold your information from this study for 5 years after it has finished so we can check the results if, during that period, you develop any problems that might be related to your treatment.

What are my choices about how my information is used?

We need to manage your records in specific ways for the study to be reliable. This means that we can't let you change the information we hold about you although you can ask to have it removed.

Can I withdraw from the study once it has started?

You may withdraw from the study at any time before our analyses without giving a reason, and we will remove your identifiable data and not contact you again. This will not affect your treatment. However, once we have used your data in our analyses, we cannot remove your anonymised information although we will remove all your identifiable data from the study if requested.

Where can I find out more about how my information is used?

You can find out more about how we use your information by asking one of the research team. See contact details below.

Can I find out the results of the study?

Yes of course, but it may be some time before the results of the study are available. The anonymised results will be published in international journals and will be presented at conferences. The summary of every study conducted on the data will be shown on the Saving Faces website and if you want we can alert you when a study is uploaded.

Contact details

If you have a query about any aspect of this study please feel free to contact your local team or the Saving Faces Research Office, who will do their best to answer your questions or direct you to a lead clinician. If you are unhappy about how your data has been handled you can contact the JRMO of Barts Health.

Saving Faces Research Office

 www.savingfaces.co.uk

☎ Phone: 020 3417 7757

✉ Email: info@savingfaces.co.uk

National Wisdom Tooth Study - Lead Clinicians:

Mr Geoff Chiu

Prof Paul Coulthard

Prof Iain Hutchison

Study managed by



Study supported by

