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Understanding Oral Surgery: An Overview

Riccardo Scaini*

Department of Oral Implantology, University of Milan, Italy

INTRODUCTION

Oral surgery encompasses a range of procedures that are performed to address issues affecting the mouth, jaw, and surrounding structures. This field of dentistry is crucial for both functional and aesthetic reasons, and it includes a variety of treatments, from tooth extractions to complex jaw surgeries. One of the most common oral surgeries is the extraction of teeth, particularly wisdom teeth. These molars often become impacted or misaligned, causing pain or dental complications. Dentists typically recommend extraction if the teeth pose a risk to overall oral health.

DESCRIPTION

For individuals missing teeth, dental implants offer a longterm solution. This procedure involves placing a titanium post in the jawbone, which acts as a root for a prosthetic tooth. Implants not only restore functionality but also help maintain the jawbone's structure. Jaw surgery also known as Orthognathic surgery, this type addresses issues with jaw alignment that can affect chewing, speech, and overall facial appearance. Conditions such as overbites, under-bites, and facial asymmetry can often be corrected through this surgery. Children born with cleft lip or palate require specialized surgical intervention to repair these conditions. Early intervention is critical for proper feeding, speech development, and social integration. Accidents can lead to fractures in the jaw or facial bones. Oral surgeons are trained to repair these injuries, often involving metal plates or screws to stabilize the bones as they heal. Oral surgeons also play a key role in the diagnosis and treatment of oral tumors. Whether benign or malignant, timely surgical intervention is essential to ensure the best outcomes. Oral surgery typically begins with a thorough consultation, during which the surgeon will assess the patient's condition through imaging studies and a physical examination. An individualized treatment plan is then developed, detailing the procedure, anesthesia options, and recovery expectations. Most oral

surgeries are performed under local anesthesia, sedation, or general anesthesia, depending on the complexity of the procedure and the patient's anxiety levels. Post-operative care is critical for successful recovery. Patients are usually given instructions regarding pain management, dietary restrictions, and signs of potential complications. Recovery time varies based on the type of surgery performed. For minor procedures, patients may return to normal activities within a few days, while more complex surgeries, like jaw realignment, could require weeks of recovery. Over the counter pain relievers or prescribed medication can help manage discomfort. A soft diet is usually recommended immediately after surgery to avoid irritating the surgical site. Maintaining oral hygiene is essential, but patients may need to use specific techniques or mouth rinses to avoid disturbing the healing area. Regular check-ups ensure that healing is progressing as expected and allow the surgeon to address any concerns. Like all surgeries, oral surgery carries some risks. Common complications include, infection, bleeding, nerve damage and dry Socket [1-4].

CONCLUSION

Oral surgery is a vital component of dental care, addressing a wide range of conditions that affect the mouth and jaw. With advances in technology and techniques, many procedures are less invasive and associated with quicker recovery times. Understanding the types of surgeries, the processes involved, and the importance of proper aftercare can help patients feel more prepared and informed. If you have concerns about your oral health, consulting with an oral surgeon can provide clarity and options tailored to your needs.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The author's declared that they have no conflict of interest.

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Corresponding author Riccardo Scaini, Department of Oral Implantology, University of Milan, Italy, E-mail: riccardoscaini@icloud.com

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