**Contact Information**

**Name: Rhonda Troughton Orthodontic Secretary**

Contact Number: 01553 613855

**Name: Orthodontic / ENT reception**

Contact Number:01553 613613 extension 3577

**Name: DCT for Oral Surgery and Orthodontics**

Contact number: 01553 613613 ask for the on call doctor in oral surgery.

**Feedback**

We appreciate and encourage feedback. If you need advice or are concerned about any aspect of care of treatment, please speak to a member of staff or contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS):

**Telephone:** 01553 613351 or 01553 613343  
**Email:** pals@qehkl.nhs.uk  
**Letter:** PALS, The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King’s Lynn NHS Foundation Trust, Gayton Road, King’s Lynn PE30 4ET

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**Oral and Maxillofacial Department**

**Exposure of Impacted Upper Canines**

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**Exposure of Impacted Upper Canines**

**The problem**The canine tooth normally erupts into the mouth between the ages of 11 and 13. Sometimes one or both canines develop in the wrong position. Often, they lie across the roof of the mouth behind the front teeth.

**Why do I need treatment?**If a canine is in the wrong place, as part of your orthodontic treatment it is necessary to help the tooth move into the mouth. If left alone, it will not come through normally and may either damage the roots of the front teeth or push them out of position.

**What does the treatment involve?**Helping the tooth erupt into your mouth involves a relatively minor surgical procedure. This usually takes place under a day case general anaesthetic, whereby you are put to sleep and able to go home the same day. Whilst asleep, the gum over the tooth will be pushed back, and occasionally some of the bone surrounding the crown will need to be removed.

**How is the tooth moved into position?**Once the canine is exposed, one of three things will happen whilst under the general anaesthetic:

* **Bracket and chain.** A small bracket is glued to the tooth, which is attached to a chain that the orthodontist can use to pull the toot into the correct position. The chain is usually stitched out of the way but it is quite delicate and therefore it is important to be careful when eating for the first few weeks after surgery/
* **A plate.** Sometimes a small window will be cut into the gum over the tooth and a plastic dressing plate put in to place to cover the area. This plate is held in your mouth with clips that attach to some of your back teeth. It is important that you wear the all the time except when you take it out to clean your teeth. Without the plate the gum may grow back making it difficult for the orthodontist to move the tooth into position.
* **A pack.** Sometimes a pack made from gauze soaked in an antiseptic is placed over the tooth after it is exposed. The pack is kept in position with stitches and removed after a few weeks. You must be careful not to dislodge the pack. If this happens you should contact the emergency department for advice. Sometimes it is necessary to hold the gum back in the right position with stitches at the end of the operation. These are usually dissolvable and take about two weeks to disappear.

**Is there any pain or swelling?**All of the above procedures are not particularly painful but you will obviously experience some soreness afterwards. There is usually very little in the way of swelling. If it is likely to be sore, your surgeon will recommend painkillers for you. It is not usually necessary to require antibiotics.

**Will I need another appointment?**You will need to return a few weeks after surgery to have the area checked by your orthodontist or surgeon. Further appointments after this will obviously be necessary for your ongoing orthodontic care.