

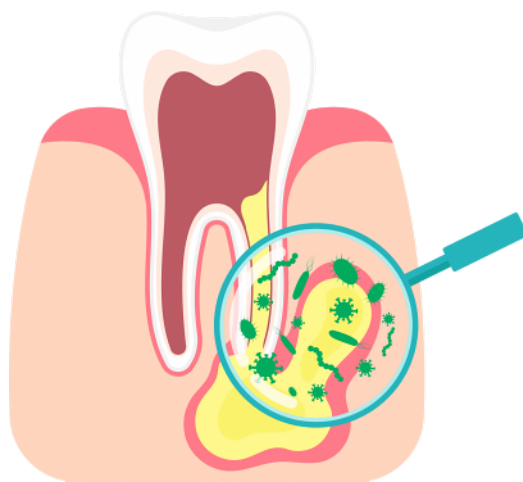
Open Access Services - Incision and Drainage of Orofacial Abscesses

About Open Access Services

Open Access Services is a programme by Woodlands Health (WH) that allows patients seeking medical attention at primary care facilities to have direct referral access to endoscopy, minor surgery, and advanced imaging, bypassing the need for a consultation with a specialist.

Why Am I Being Referred for this Procedure?

Based on your symptoms, your doctor has referred you for a minor procedure known as 'incision and drainage of orofacial abscesses'. Information about this procedure can be found on pages 3, 4 and 5.



What to Expect

1

Before Procedure

- Your doctor confirms your eligibility for the procedure.
- You may either call WH's Dental Surgery to schedule an appointment or visit the clinic as a walk-in:



Call to make an appointment

6363 3131

Mon - Fri: 8am to 8pm

Sat, Sun and PH: 8am to 2pm

Walk-in to WH Dental Surgery Clinic

Woodlands Health Campus

Tower C, Level 1

Mon - Fri: 8.30am to 5.30pm

Sat, Sun and PH: Closed

2

Procedure Day

- Arrive at the Dental Surgery Clinic at Woodlands Health Campus, Tower C, Level 1.
- A doctor will conduct a screening check and seek your consent before the procedure.



3

After Procedure

- A WH staff will advise you on next steps including booking of a follow-up appointment (if needed) and payment.
- Please return home to rest.
- Depending on your results, you may be informed to follow up with your doctor or specialist.



About the Incision and Drainage of Orofacial Abscesses Procedure

1. What is Incision and Drainage of Orofacial Abscesses?

This is a surgical opening to access and drain abscesses (a localised collection of pus) or an infected space. Small abscesses may be managed under local anaesthesia in an outpatient setting.

2. Why do I need this procedure?

Bacterial infections often result in inflammation and the production of pus (thick, yellowish white fluid) in the soft tissue. If these infections are left untreated, they may result severe swelling, airway obstruction, spreading to the deep spaces of the neck or even septicaemia (blood poisoning), which may be life-threatening.

An incision and drainage procedure facilitates the drainage of pus and a wash-out with antiseptic medicaments. It also allows your clinician the opportunity to culture and identify the bacteria causing the infection and ensure that the appropriate medications are prescribed.

3. What are the preparations for the procedure?

Small, localised abscesses may be drained under local anaesthesia. Continue taking your prescribed medications (especially antibiotics and diabetic medications).



4. How is the procedure performed?

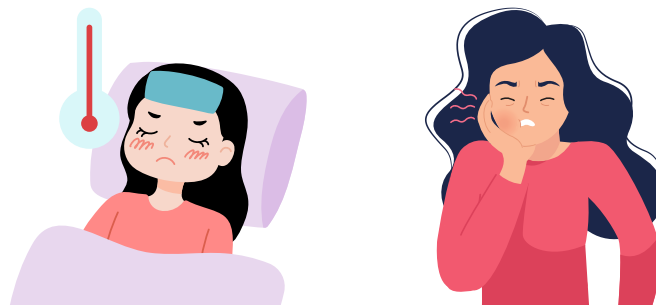
The surgical site will be cleaned and local anaesthesia will be injected to numb the area. The surgeon will make an incision in the area of greatest fluctuance of the swelling and sterile instruments will be used to drain the pus.

A swab of the infected tissues may be taken and sent for testing to culture (identify) the type of bacteria causing the infection. In some cases, a tube or drain may be inserted for the continued drainage of the abscess over the next few days, and to permit flushing of the infected area with antiseptic solutions.

A follow-up appointment is necessary to review the swelling, remove any drains and evaluate the findings from any bacterial culture that was done.

5. What are the risks and complications of the procedure?

General complications may include pain, fever, bleeding or persistent/worsening infections especially for patients with poorly-controlled diabetes or those who are immuno-compromised. Such patients may need to be admitted for closer observation and the administration of intravenous (through the veins) antibiotics to control and treat the infection.



6. What would I expect after the procedure?

You will be able to return home after the procedure unless your surgeon feels you require hospital admission for closer observation. You may feel some pain over the incision site once the effect of local anaesthesia wears off, but this can be controlled by prescribed painkillers. It is important to complete the course of antibiotics that you will be prescribed.

For incision and drainage of abscesses in the mouth, maintain good hygiene with antiseptic mouth rinses after each meal. If a drain has been inserted, you may need to insert a syringe into the drain to wash the drainage site with the antiseptic solution.

7. What will happen if I do not undergo the procedure?

Infections that are left untreated may result severe swelling, airway obstruction, infections of the deep spaces of the neck or even septicaemia (blood poisoning), which may be life-threatening. It is important that you receive treatment quickly to reduce the risk for further complications.

Disclaimer:

This information sheet mentions some of the more common or important risks of surgery/ procedure. It does not and cannot cover every possible scenario or detail.

Day of Procedure

Arriving For Your Appointment

- On the day of your procedure, please arrive at:
Dental Surgery Clinic, Tower C, Level 1
Woodlands Health Campus
17 Woodlands Drive 17
Singapore 737628



Directions to Woodlands Health Campus



Getting around Campus

- Please arrive at your scheduled appointment time.
- If you do not receive your appointment details within 3 working days from the date of your clinic visit, please call 6363 8000.
- Please keep to your scheduled date. However, if you are unwell (i.e. fever, cough and flu), or wish to postpone/ cancel the procedure, please call 6363 8000 (Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5.30pm or Saturday 8.30am to 12.30pm).

Preparation

- This procedure is performed under local anaesthesia, hence fasting is not mandatory.
- It is best to stop smoking around 2 - 3 days before the surgery as it can significantly increase the risk of complications.
- As you will likely receive anaesthetic injections, which will last around 2 - 3 hours, do have a light meal before the procedure.

Documents to Bring

Identification:

- Singapore NRIC
- SAF identity card (11B)
- Non-Singaporeans: Passport, entry permit, employment pass, work permit or other valid ID issued by the Singapore Ministry of Manpower

Medical benefit documents, if applicable:

- Insurance card (no direct billing to insurance company)
- Insurer's or employer's guarantee letter
(if the bill is covered by your employer)

Consent

Your consent for the procedure will be obtained from you on the day of the procedure.

Discharge Care

- You will be observed for around 15 - 30 minutes after the procedure and discharged only when you are deemed suitable.
- You may not need a family member or friend to accompany you home on the day itself.
- Further instructions specific to your condition and treatment will be provided on the day of the procedure.

