

## **Potential Sinus Complication**

With some people, the roots of the upper teeth can be on the edge of, or even well into the sinus-separated only by a paper-thin membrane. Sometimes, the process of removing a tooth can leave a hole **from the mouth into the sinus**. Other times, the membrane exists after the extraction, but things the patient does can later cause a perforation of the membrane.

**If there is a communication between your mouth (through the base of the socket) and the sinus, the following can happen:**

- \*Irritation, congestion, and even infection of the sinus.**
- \*Fluid that you drink can come out of your nose.**

### Prevention:

When upper, back teeth are extracted (including wisdom teeth) with or without a communication to the sinus, you should not:

- 1. Sneeze, cough, or blow your nose unless your mouth is slightly open. Continue this behavior for two weeks.**

### Treatment:

If the dentist says the roots were into the sinus and the sinus membrane was torn or perforated during the extraction (this is often unavoidable), then **in addition to #1 above, you will need to:**

- 2. Take amoxicillin or another antibiotic for 10 days.**
- 3. Taken an over-the-counter decongestant to help dry the sinus, such as timed-release Sudafed 120mg (take twice a day for 10 days).**

All of these things will help the body heal the problem. If, after one month, there is a situation where fluids pass freely between your mouth and nose, a second surgery may be necessary to resolve the situation.

Please call us with any questions or concerns!

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