

Ask the dentist

By Drs. Ronald & Todd Powell
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Advertorial

To Pull or not to Pull...

Question: I had what I thought was a small problem with my tooth. My dentist quickly decided that the tooth must be pulled. I thought you dentists are in the business to save teeth!

~ Glen from Aurora

Answer: One of our mentors back in the mid 60's was Dr. Mitchell Kaminski, chief of oral surgery at Loyola Dental School in Chicago. He had some classic expressions: "All teeth can be saved, except the ones you can't." And if he saw one that could not be saved he would exclaim: this tooth needs a prescription for "cold steel and sunshine!". That is to say, an extraction forceps, bringing the tooth outside the mouth.

First your DDS will look at an X-ray. A tooth cannot be saved if the decay has traveled below the level of the bone which surrounds it or if most of the supporting bone has been destroyed by periodontal disease. If the tooth has fractured through its roots or has deep pockets in the gum tissue surrounding it, it has a future of survival equal to Mike Huckabee's presidential campaign. We are trained to save teeth but some just have to see the sunshine.



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