

## SETTING

Suburban Dental Clinic

## PATIENT

You have had some pain in the back of your lower jaw (left side). The gum behind the molar seems red and sore. You have a perfect set of teeth and cannot imagine that you could have any problems with them. You have come to the dentist for advice on your gums.

## TASK

- When asked, request that the dentist explains what he/she means by 'impacted' wisdom teeth as you have never heard this term before. Express doubt that they could cause any problems.
- Express some concern at having an X-ray which may be unnecessary.
- Explain that you would prefer to wait and see. (You don't approve of extraction: it seems so out of character for you.)
- Be difficult to convince, but eventually agree to consider the recommended option.

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## DENTIST

The patient – who has a perfect set of teeth – is complaining of sore gums, particularly behind the lower left molar. You diagnose wisdom teeth coming through and suspect that they are impacted (a tooth has failed to emerge fully into its expected position).

## TASK

- Find out what the patient knows about impacted teeth.
- Explain the potential problems caused by impacted wisdom teeth (e.g., causing pain, swelling, jaw stiffness; damaging adjacent teeth; destroying surrounding structures, etc.).
- Find out the patient's attitude towards having an X-ray. Suggest that this is the best way to find out if the teeth are impacted.
- Stress the importance of removing the teeth before they interfere with the second molars.