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Effect of Wisdom Tooth Pain on Oral Function and Lifestyle

[Rosemont, IL, January 1, 2015] Pericoronitis refers to chronic inflammation of the gum tissue surrounding the crown of a molar, and most frequently lower third molars. While pain is the symptom that most often prompts patients to seek treatment, there are other symptoms of equal importance.

Researchers at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, conducted a study to assess the pericoronitis pain and its effect on oral function and lifestyle. “Pain With Pericoronitis Affects Quality of Life,” an article in the January issue of the Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, details the study’s results.

Patients experiencing only mild symptoms of pericoronitis were enrolled in the study and asked to complete a questionnaire related specifically to wisdom tooth problems and their effect on oral function, lifestyle and pain. Although patients reported pain levels as moderate to low, all rated the pericoronitis as having a negative effect on their daily routine and social life, particularly their ability to eat a regular diet, chew food, and talk.

The results of this study, the researchers concluded, underscore the affect that even the mild symptoms of pericoronitis have on a patient’s daily life.