Prophylactic removal of wisdom teeth
Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services

Record Status
This is a bibliographic record of a published health technology assessment from a member of INAHTA. No evaluation of the quality of this assessment has been made for the HTA database.

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Authors' objectives
The objective was to assess the scientific evidence on prophylactic removal of impacted wisdom teeth, in terms of the incidence of surgical complications associated with prophylactic removal, the morbidity associated with retention, quality of life and economic aspects.

Authors' conclusions
This report is based on evidence from studies that use small selected patient groups, and therefore it is difficult to conclude and give recommendations. Norwegian dentist's recommend prophylactic removal of third molars when the likelihood of third molars causing problems in the future is high and the incidence of postoperative complications are low. This includes partially erupted wisdom teeth. Removal of asymptomatic fully retained wisdom teeth is not recommended. Since the report is based on studies that are not optimal the patient's preferences need to be decisive.

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INAHTA brief and checklist

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