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Ask the Expert: Hovering Teeth

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Q: I have two extra teeth that hover above my incisors/canines in my gums.

Is it safe to get rid of them and how can I do it?

A: On occasion, the canines do not come down into the occlusion, or line up with the rest of your smile when your mouth is closed. They remain above the other teeth. These teeth have the longest roots in the mouth and are important for chewing and guiding the

lower jaw movement. If the teeth are canines, the ideal treatment would be to orthodontically bring those teeth into "occlusion" (or alignment) with the rest of your teeth. (Cost: \$6,500 to \$8,500 for orthodontics.)

But, if these teeth are extra or supernumerary teeth, then removing them would be the ideal treatment choice. The angle of the teeth and the radiographs would need to be reviewed to determine the best course of action for removal, and it's usually safe to remove them. More often, an oral and maxillofacial surgeon (or sometimes a general dentist) will be called upon to remove the extra teeth. An oral surgeon may charge anywhere from \$300 to \$400 for removal. However, this procedure can be fully or partially covered by some dental benefits.



-Dr. Brian S. Friedman, DDS, <http://www.drbrfriedman.ca>.

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