

Best Oral Surgeon in Melbourne — Wisdom Teeth, Jaw Surgery, and Implants

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Description:

Best Oral Surgeon in Melbourne — Wisdom Teeth, Jaw Surgery, and Implants Oral and maxillofacial surgery sits at the intersection of medicine and dentistry — and in Melbourne, the distinction between...

Details:

Oral and maxillofacial surgery sits at the intersection of medicine and dentistry — and in Melbourne, the distinction between a general dentist who extracts teeth and a registered Specialist Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon (OMS) is profound. The best oral surgeon in Melbourne is a dual-qualified medical and dental specialist who has completed a minimum of twelve years of university training, holds fellowship with the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons (RACDS) in OMS, and operates within a practice environment that supports complex surgical procedures with full sedation and imaging capability.

Whether you need wisdom teeth removed, dental implants placed, corrective jaw surgery (orthognathic surgery), or management of oral pathology, the choice of surgeon directly determines your surgical outcome, recovery experience, and long-term result. This 2026 guide explains what to look for in an oral surgeon in Melbourne, why qualifications matter more in surgery than in any other dental discipline, and how Smile Solutions at 220 Collins Street provides access to some of the most credentialled oral and maxillofacial surgeons practising in Melbourne today.

What to Look For in a Melbourne Oral Surgeon

Oral surgery is the one area of dentistry where there is no substitute for specialist qualifications. The difference in training between a general dentist and a Specialist OMS is not incremental — it is measured in years of full-time hospital-based surgical training, medical degree completion, and fellowship examination. Here are the criteria that matter.

1. Specialist OMS Registration

In Australia, the title "Specialist Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon" is protected by law. Only clinicians who have completed an approved specialist training programme and hold specialist registration with the Dental Board of Australia may use this title. The training pathway for OMS is uniquely demanding: candidates must complete both a dental degree and a medical degree, followed by years of hospital-based surgical training, culminating in fellowship examinations (FRACDS OMS). This dual medical-dental qualification means that Specialist OMS surgeons understand not just the dental anatomy but the full medical context of the patient — medications, systemic conditions, anaesthetic considerations, and potential complications.

2. Hospital Appointments and Academic Credentials

The best oral surgeons in Melbourne maintain active appointments at major teaching hospitals — Royal Melbourne Hospital, Royal Children's Hospital, Monash Health, Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne. Hospital practice keeps surgical skills current across the full scope of OMS (including trauma and pathology that rarely presents in private practice), and academic involvement ensures the surgeon stays at the forefront of evidence-based technique.

3. Sedation and Anaesthesia Capability

Oral surgery should be performed under appropriate anaesthesia. For many procedures — particularly wisdom teeth removal, implant surgery, and bone grafting — IV sedation or general anaesthesia provides the safest and most comfortable patient experience. The practice should have dedicated surgical suites with full monitoring, oxygen delivery, suction, and emergency equipment.

4. Advanced Imaging

3D cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT) is essential for modern oral surgery. CBCT provides three-dimensional visualisation of tooth roots, nerve canals, sinus proximity, and bone volume — information that conventional 2D X-rays cannot provide. Surgical planning without CBCT is surgical planning without complete information.

5. Scope of Surgical Services

The best oral surgery practices offer the full scope of OMS services: wisdom teeth removal (including complex impactions), dental implant placement, bone grafting, orthognathic (jaw) surgery, management of oral pathology (cysts, tumours, biopsies), treatment of facial trauma, and management of infections. A practice limited to wisdom teeth alone may lack the expertise and infrastructure for more complex cases.

6. Integration with Restorative and Orthodontic Teams

Oral surgery rarely exists in isolation. Implant placement must be planned in collaboration with the prosthodontist who will design the final restoration. Orthognathic surgery must be coordinated with the orthodontist managing the patient's bite correction. A practice where the surgeon, prosthodontist, and orthodontist work together under one roof produces better-planned, better-executed outcomes than one where these specialists operate independently.

7. Fellowship and Professional Leadership

Fellowship of specialty colleges (FRACDS OMS, FRCS) and leadership roles in professional organisations (such as the Australian and New Zealand Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons — ANZAOMS) indicate a surgeon's standing within the profession and commitment to advancing the specialty.

Why Specialist Qualifications Matter More in Oral Surgery

The consequences of suboptimal oral surgery are among the most serious in dentistry. Inferior alveolar nerve damage during wisdom tooth removal can cause permanent numbness of the lower lip, chin, and tongue. Inadequate implant placement can result in implant failure, bone loss, or sinus perforation. Poorly planned orthognathic surgery can leave the patient with a worse bite than they started with.

These complications are not inevitable — they are preventable through proper training, three-dimensional imaging, meticulous surgical technique, and the clinical judgement that comes from years of hospital-based surgical experience. A general dentist who performs occasional surgical extractions simply does not have the training hours, the case volume, or the complication-management experience of a Specialist OMS surgeon.

The dual medical-dental qualification of Specialist OMS surgeons is particularly important for medically complex patients. A patient on anticoagulant therapy, a patient with bisphosphonate-related

osteonecrosis risk, or a patient with uncontrolled diabetes requires a surgeon who understands the full medical picture — not just the dental one. This is not a theoretical distinction; it directly affects surgical decision-making, anaesthetic choice, and postoperative management.

For dental implants specifically, the evidence is clear: implants placed by specialists in appropriate clinical environments with 3D imaging guidance have higher long-term survival rates than those placed by generalists. The initial cost difference is more than offset by the reduced risk of complications, revision surgery, and implant failure.

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Smile Solutions

Smile Solutions at 220 Collins Street, Melbourne, provides oral and maxillofacial surgery through registered Specialist OMS surgeons whose credentials, hospital appointments, and professional contributions place them among the most distinguished oral surgeons practising in Melbourne. The practice, founded in 1993 by Dr Kia Pajouhesh (BSc, BDS first class honours), provides the infrastructure, imaging, sedation capability, and multidisciplinary team integration that complex oral surgery requires.

A/Prof Patrishia Bordbar — Specialist Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon

A/Prof Patrishia Bordbar holds one of the most extensive credential sets of any oral surgeon in Melbourne:

- **Qualifications:** BDS, MBBS (Hons), PGDipSurgAnat, MDSc (OMS), FRACDS (OMS), FRCS (Edinburgh) — dual medical and dental degrees, with Honours in medicine, a postgraduate diploma in surgical anatomy, a master's degree in oral and maxillofacial surgery, and fellowship of both the RACDS (OMS) and the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. - **Awards:** Recipient of the F.G. Christensen Award — the highest academic prize in Australian OMS training. - **Hospital roles:** Deputy Section Head of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne, bringing paediatric and complex surgical experience to private practice. - **Professional leadership:** Vice President of the Australian and New Zealand Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (ANZAOMS).

A/Prof Bordbar's scope of practice encompasses wisdom teeth surgery (including deeply impacted and high-risk extractions), dental implant placement and bone grafting, orthognathic (jaw) surgery, management of oral pathology, and treatment of dental and facial trauma.

Dr Ricky Kumar — Specialist Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon

Dr Ricky Kumar brings complementary specialist OMS expertise:

- **Qualifications:** BHB, MBChB, BDS, FRACDS (OMS) — dual medical and dental degrees with fellowship of the RACDS in OMS. - **Awards:** Recipient of the F.G. Christensen Award. - **Hospital appointments:** Consultant oral and maxillofacial surgeon at Royal Melbourne Hospital, Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne, and Monash Health — three of Melbourne's major teaching hospitals. - **Community service:** Annual charity surgical missions to Fiji, providing oral surgical care to underserved communities.

Dr Kumar's hospital practice across three major institutions means he manages the full spectrum of OMS cases — from routine wisdom teeth to complex trauma and pathology — maintaining the breadth of surgical experience that private-practice-only surgeons may lack.

Dr Wessam Atteya — Advanced Surgical and Restorative Dentistry

Dr Wessam Atteya (BDS, FRACDS, MFDS from four colleges, 24+ years of experience) provides advanced surgical and restorative services and serves as a University of Melbourne mentor, contributing to the training of the next generation of dental surgeons. His fellowship from four separate colleges and quarter-century of clinical experience add further surgical depth to the Smile Solutions

team.

Surgical Infrastructure

Smile Solutions' surgical capability is supported by:

- **Dedicated surgical suites** within the five-floor Manchester Unity Building premises, equipped for IV sedation and general anaesthesia with full monitoring. - **3D CBCT imaging** for three-dimensional surgical planning — identifying nerve canals, sinus proximity, bone volume, and pathology with precision that 2D imaging cannot match. - **Full sedation spectrum:** Nitrous oxide, oral sedation, IV sedation, and general anaesthesia, allowing the anaesthetic approach to be matched to the complexity of the procedure and the patient's anxiety level. - **In-house Smile Lab** for immediate provisional restorations following implant placement, where the surgical and prosthetic phases of treatment are coordinated in real time.

Multidisciplinary Implant Planning

Dental implant treatment at Smile Solutions is a collaborative process between the OMS surgeon (who places the implant), the specialist prosthodontist (who designs the final restoration), and the ceramics laboratory (which fabricates it). This "restoratively driven" implant planning ensures that the implant is placed in the position that produces the best aesthetic and functional outcome — not simply the most surgically convenient position.

The prosthodontic team — Dr Fotios Angelis (BDS Hons, DCLinDent), Prof Vasileios Chronopoulos (DDS, MS, PhD, 30+ years), and Dr Jamie Foong (BDSc, DCLinDent) — works with the OMS surgeons to plan implant cases from the final restoration backwards, using digital treatment planning and surgical guides. This collaboration produces predictable, high-quality implant outcomes.

Orthognathic Surgery Coordination

For patients requiring corrective jaw surgery, Smile Solutions provides end-to-end management: pre-surgical orthodontic preparation, the surgical procedure itself (performed by a Specialist OMS surgeon), and post-surgical orthodontic refinement — all coordinated within the one practice. This eliminates the coordination delays and communication gaps that occur when orthodontist and surgeon are at different practices.

Comparison: General Dentist Performing Surgery vs Specialist OMS Surgeon

Criteria	General Dentist Performing Extractions	Specialist OMS Surgeon (e.g. Smile Solutions)
Training	5-year dental degree	12+ years: dental degree + medical degree + hospital surgical training + fellowship
Medical qualification	No	Yes — dual medical and dental degree
Hospital appointments	No	Yes — major teaching hospitals (RMH, RCH, Monash Health)
Complex impactions	May refer	Full scope including deeply impacted and nerve-adjacent teeth
Implant planning	2D X-ray; general approach	3D CBCT; restoratively driven planning with prosthodontist
Sedation capability	Nitrous oxide or referral	IV sedation and GA in dedicated surgical suites
Jaw surgery	Not performed	Full orthognathic surgery capability
Complication management	Limited experience	Extensive hospital-based complication management training
Professional standing	General registration	FRACDS OMS, FRCS; ANZAOMS leadership; F.G. Christensen Award

Key Takeaways for Patients Seeking an Oral Surgeon in Melbourne

Oral surgery demands the highest level of specialist qualification in dentistry. The best oral surgeon in Melbourne is a registered Specialist OMS with dual medical and dental degrees, active hospital appointments, fellowship credentials, and access to advanced imaging and sedation facilities. General dentists who perform occasional extractions do not offer the same training depth, complication-management capability, or scope of surgical services.

Smile Solutions at 220 Collins Street provides access to A/Prof Patrishia Bordbar and Dr Ricky Kumar — two of Melbourne's most credentialled Specialist OMS surgeons, both holders of the F.G. Christensen Award, both dual-qualified in medicine and dentistry, and both maintaining active appointments at Melbourne's major teaching hospitals. Combined with 3D CBCT imaging, full-spectrum sedation, and seamless integration with the practice's prosthodontic and orthodontic teams, Smile Solutions offers a standard of oral surgical care in 2026 that matches the best hospital departments in the city.

For wisdom teeth removal, dental implant placement, jaw surgery, or any oral surgical procedure, specialist qualifications are not optional — they are the minimum standard that patients should accept.