

# Wisdom Teeth Evolution

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A study by a team of scientists in Australia has shown evidence that humans are still evolving.

Evolution is a process which all species go through. This enables them to adapt and develop over time.

When humans evolve over a short amount of time, it's called microevolution. The scientists believe that the last 250 years has seen the quickest rate of evolution in human history.

According to the study, babies that are born today show some differences to those born in the past.

The scientists say babies that are born today have shorter faces and smaller jaws. This means that there is less space in their jaws for all of their teeth. This is thought to be the cause of evolution in wisdom teeth.

Evolution has meant that many babies are now being born without their wisdom teeth. As humans have evolved over time, our food habits have changed which means we no longer need them.

Dr Lucas from Flinders University in Adelaide, explained that "This is happening in time as we have learnt to use fire and process foods more".

In the past, humans ate raw and rough foods such as leaves, meat and roots which needed lots of chewing. Wisdom teeth help to grind down food, using their flat surface.

Today, humans are able to cook their food which helps to soften it. Also, using cutlery to chop up food can remove the need for lots of chewing. This means they have less need for their wisdom teeth and all of these factors have contributed towards the evolution of wisdom teeth.

Wisdom teeth don't usually emerge until an adult's late teens or early twenties. They can sometimes grow at odd angles. This can be painful and some adults get these teeth removed. So, what do you think? Is it 'wise' of the human body to evolve in this way?