

Post Op Instructions for Dental Extractions

You will most likely experience one or more of the following symptoms over the next 1-3 days: Minor pain, swelling, bleeding, bruising, limitation in opening or closing your mouth, pain in jaw or ear, sore throat. It is important to listen to your body and take it easy. The following Post-op instructions, will help limit the severity of these symptoms.

Do not disturb the area: Continue biting on the gauze for 30-60 minutes following your procedure. Do NOT spit, rinse, suck (using a straw), smoke, drink carbonated or alcoholic beverages for at least 24 hours. Passively empty your mouth when needed. Do not spit. The goal is to keep blood clot in the socket to prevent bleeding and a painful complication known as DRY SOCKET. **No heavy lifting, spitting, sucking, alcohol or smoking.**

Bleeding: Some oozing of blood is normal for the first 12-24 hours. If you experience excessive bleeding, apply firm pressure with 1-2 folded gauze pads or damp tea bag on the affected area for 30-60 minutes and keep your head elevated. Call the office if the bleeding does not subside.

Pain: Discomfort is normal after surgery. To minimize pain, over-the-counter pain medication (Tylenol, Advil, Motrin or similar) may be taken as directed on the bottle to relieve discomfort.

Oral hygiene: Brush gently. A gentle lukewarm salt water rinse can be used to freshen your mouth. But again, do not spit; just let the fluid passively empty. The corners of your mouth may become cracked and dry – moisturize frequently.

Swelling: Apply cold compresses to affected area at 10 minute intervals for the first 24 hours to minimize swelling. Any swelling that occurs usually begins to diminish within 72 hours; call the office if there is no change.

Diet: Drink plenty of fluids. Avoid carbonated and alcoholic beverages. A soft diet will be easiest: yogurt, milkshakes (no straw), soups, fish, pasta. Nothing too spicy is recommended. It is normal to have a little tenderness while chewing and difficulty opening wide.

Stitches: If you have received sutures, avoid playing with them. A fifteen minute appointment may be needed to remove the sutures in 7-10 days, unless resorbable sutures were placed.

Prescriptions: If you have been prescribed antibiotics, take them as directed **until they are all gone**, even if symptoms dissipate. Some antibiotics can interfere with the effectiveness of birth control pills or other medications. If pain medication or a mouth rinse is prescribed take as directed.

In case of any unusual disturbances, questions or any post-surgical problems, please call the office.