

## **Post Operative Instructions – Extractions and Oral Surgery**

**Day 1:** 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. The goal is to keep blood clot in the socket to prevent bleeding and a painful complication known as DRY SOCKET.

**Days 2-4:** You will most likely experience one or more of the following symptoms: Minor pain, swelling, 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. No heavy lifting, spitting, sucking, alcohol or smoking.

**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. We may have given you a bottle of prescription antibiotic rinse. If so, use only as directed. The corners of your mouth may become cracked and dry, therefore moisturize frequently.

**Discomfort:** Over-the-counter NSAIDS (Ibuprofen, Aleve, Advil) may be taken as directed on the bottle to relieve discomfort. We usually recommend **600mg every 6 hours** starting immediately after the procedure and continuing for the first 3-4 days. If we prescribed a narcotic (ex. Vicodin), read instructions carefully and take only as directed.

**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.

**Bleeding:** Some oozing of blood is normal for the first 12-24 hours. Put a hand towel on your pillow as some drooling can occur when you are numb. 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.

**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.

**Bone Grafting/Implants:** If a bone graft and/or implants were placed, avoid excessive pressure on the surgical site. It is normal for some bone particles or collagen to be visible or make their way to the surface. Otherwise, follow same surgical instructions as for extractions.

**Stitches:** If you have received sutures, avoid playing with them. A fifteen-minute appointment may be needed to remove the sutures in 10-14 days. You would have been informed that the sutures will resorb and fall out on their own, if we didn't schedule a suture removal appointment.

**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 complications, please call the office at (772) 286-1606