



## Christopher A. Swisher, DDS

Pediatric Dentistry

### POST-OP INSTRUCTIONS

**Anesthetics:** The length of time you experience numbness varies depending on the type of anesthetic you have received. While your mouth is numb, be careful not to bite your cheek, lip, or tongue. The numbness from the anesthetic should subside within a few hours. Drowsiness may persist for several hours following sedation; this is normal. Be aware that pain control prescriptions also cause drowsiness. If you are drowsy, **DO NOT** operate any vehicle, device, machinery or make any important decisions.

**Bleeding:** Your dentist will place a gauze pack in the extraction site to limit bleeding and confine the blood while clotting takes place. Remain biting on the gauze pad in your mouth for one hour, (60 minutes). **DO NOT** chew on the pack. Change the pad every hour (60 minutes), or as needed, until the bleeding stops by folding a piece of gauze into a pad thick enough to bite on. Place the pad directly on the extraction site. Maintain biting pressure for thirty (30) minutes. If the pad becomes soaked, replace it with a clean one as necessary. **DO NOT** lie down until the bleeding has stopped. If the bleeding continues after the above measures, soak a tea bag then wrap it in gauze, place it firmly in the area of bleeding. On top of this, place gauze and apply pressure by closing the teeth together. Do not become excited, but lie down with the head elevated on three pillows. Apply an ice bag to the cheek and avoid hot liquids. **DO NOT** suck on the extraction site. Blood streaked saliva may persist for twenty-four (24) hours or more; this is normal. If bleeding is excessive during the night and you are concerned, please call the office at the phone number listed above. If unable to contact the office, go to the nearest hospital emergency room for treatment. (Remember that a lot of saliva and a little blood can **LOOK** like a lot of blood).

**Swelling:** Facial swelling is normal following most extractions. You can help reduce swelling and pain by applying warm compress after 24 hours. Sit with your head elevated and sleep with 2-3 pillows. Swelling normally increases for 3 days and begins to subside about the fifth day.

**Pain:** You may take pain medication as directed by the Oral Surgeon. If the medication prescribed does not seem to work for you **DO NOT** increase the dosage. If you have prolonged severe pain, swelling, bleeding, or fever, please follow the directions Used under "**EMERGENCY**" on the other side.

**Rinsing: DO NOT rinse, spit, smoke, brush teeth or suck through a straw for the first 24 hours.** This will help prevent post-op discomfort and chance for dry socket. These activities may dislodge the blood clot, start bleeding, and delay healing. If you are unable to rinse the food particles out of the wound, a syringe may be provided by the office if needed during your post-op check appointment in a week. Begin brushing thoroughly after meals, the next day. **DO NOT** rinse with any mouthwash until after your post-operative appointment.

**Oral Hygiene:** You may resume brushing your teeth using care in the surgical areas the morning following surgery. Use a soft bristled brush so that you do not injure the tissues in your mouth. The tongue should be brushed to help eliminate bad breath and the unpleasant taste that is common after an extraction. Gently rinse your mouth with warm water (1/2 teaspoon of salt to a large glass of water). You should rinse with this warm salt solution in the morning, after every meal and before bed. Rinsing after each meal is important to keep food particles out of the extraction site. Remember to rinse gently and avoid using commercial mouthwash or mouth rinse during the healing period.

**Diet:** A good diet is essential following surgery. Initially, soft foods high in nutritional value are recommended. Return to a normal diet as soon as possible. Stay with cool or lukewarm foods. Fluid intake following surgery should be increased with emphasis on water and fruit juices. **DO NOT** suck fluids through a straw.

**Other Possible Side Effects:** There may be a slight elevation of temperature for 24-48 hours. If a temperature continues, notify the office. There may be a slight earache. If the corners of your mouth are stretched, they may dry out and crack - keep the area moist with cream or ointment such as Vaseline or Neosporin. Your other teeth may ache temporarily (sympathetic pain). Stiffness of the jaw - use a warm compress and massage the jaw to help relax the tension.

**Emergency:** If following surgery, you feel the need for emergency treatment, please (1) come to our office if it is during office hours, (2) if the office is closed call the office to get the emergency number in order to reach the oral surgeon or (3) if you are unable to contact the oral surgeon go the nearest hospital emergency room for treatment.

**Advisory:** If you are undergoing surgery using **General Anesthesia**, it is strongly advised you have **ADULT SUPERVISION for a minimum of 24 hours.**