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POST OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR EXTRACTIONS

You have just undergone a surgical extraction procedure. Varying degrees of pain may continue for about one week following surgery. You may also experience discomfort in the ears, throat, the side of the head, and under your lower jaw. There will be an opening where the tooth was removed. Try to keep your fingers and tongue out this area.

Try to limit your activities as much as possible on the day of surgery to reduce bleeding and permit formation of a clot in the wound. This is necessary for proper healing. Surgical wounds of the mouth usually heal quickly and without complications. If you take the simple precautions described in this pamphlet, it will likely make your recovery an easier one.

SWELLING

Some swelling is to be expected and should not alarm you. The most swelling usually occurs during the 48 hours, and then begins to decrease. Keeping your head elevated during this period can also help limit your swelling. The amount of swelling varies from person to person and depends upon the complexity of your surgery. If your swelling persists or increases, after the first 3 to 5 days, call our office. If a vein used to administer general anesthesia becomes sore and swollen please notify our office.

PAIN MEDICATIONS

Most often, you will experience some discomfort for a few days following your procedure. The **prescription** for pain should be filled only if needed, and taken as directed. If you were not prescribed any medication or you have completed your prescription, take over the counter medications such as Ibuprofen, Advil, Naprosyn/Aleve, or Acetomenophen /Tylenol as directed on the bottle. **Do not take any other pain medicines or sedatives with your prescribed drugs.** unless your doctor has specifically directed you to do so.

NARCOTICS: It can be extremely dangerous to consume alcohol while you are taking narcotic pain medications. Also since these drugs can cause drowsiness or alter your perception it is advised you **should not take them** if you are driving any motor vehicle, operating **machinery, or doing anything that requires alertness.** Increasing pain on the third or fifth day after tooth removal may indicate a problem with healing. The pain is usually severe and unresponsive to pain medications. If this has occurred, contact the office immediately for an appointment.

ANTIBIOTICS: When antibiotics are prescribed, please take them as directed and complete the entire amount that was given. If you develop a rash, hives or persistent itching, you may be having an allergic reaction. Stop taking the medication and call the office if you **feel tightness in your chest or difficulty breathing, seek Emergency Medical Care.**

BIRTH CONTROL PILL USERS: Please use alternative means of contraception and take extra precautions. The use of prescription medications and antibiotics can cause your birth control pills **not to work or be less effective.**

BLEEDING

Some oozing from the tooth socket may continue for the first 24 hours. However, if there is more than slight oozing, the following procedures can help **control the bleeding**.

1. Use clean gauze to gently remove the blood from your mouth and around the surgical areas. All blood clots that are not in the wound should be removed. Do not attempt to remove anything from inside the socket.
2. Place a clean folded gauze pad on the bleeding/socket. Not just between your teeth.
3. Close your mouth tightly over the gauze pad so that there is pressure against the spot that is bleeding. Make sure the gauze does not end up between your teeth, as it is crucial to put **pressure directly over the site that is bleeding**.
4. Maintain the pressure for about 20 minutes to 30 minutes resist the urge to check on the site prior to this period of time. Repeat the process if necessary.
5. Avoid spitting and rinsing if bleeding such as this occurs. Doing so will cause the bleeding to start again, or continue
6. If the bleeding has not come under control after a couple of attempts, a **moistened tea bag** can be placed over the site to aide in the clotting process.

SUTURES

Sutures (stitches) may have been used after your surgery. You will need to return for another visit for a suture removal if sutures are used. They are bothersome, however, we ask that you do not pick or pull at your stitches.

ORAL HYGIENE

After teeth are removed, wait until the following day to start your oral care. Begin rinsing your mouth with warm salt water (one-half teaspoon of salt in an 8 oz. glass of warm water) at least five to six times a day. It is important to continue with the everyday brushing and hygiene of your mouth. When brushing, be gentle near the surgical sites and stitches. You are less likely to get a post-operative infection if your mouth is kept clean.

IMPACTED TEETH

Oral care if you have had impacted teeth removed will be the same as for other oral surgery patients. In addition, you may observe some of the following conditions. Increased swelling & tightness in the muscles of your jaw may cause discomfort or difficulty with opening your mouth. Your bite may feel "off" adjacent teeth may ache, feel loose or be temperature sensitive. Prolonged **numbness or tingling in your lip or tongue**, though rarely permanent, may last several weeks or months. A slight **fever** for the first 48 hours is not uncommon, but if it persists, please call.

SMOKING

Smoking is not advised for one week after tooth removal. Smoking delays healing and can result in increased pain or a dry socket. NO smoking is a difficult rule to follow, but even the slightest bit can complicate your recovery.

UNSUSAL CONDITIONS

Please call the office if any of the following conditions are noted:

1. Fever over 101 degrees.
2. Severe bright red bleeding that has not been controlled by following the instructions in this pamphlet.
3. Severe or large hard swelling after the 4th postoperative day.
4. Rash, difficulty breathing, severe vomiting, or any other suspected reaction to your medication(s).

PLEASE BE ADVISED

The doctor can be reached on his cell phone after hours for emergencies, by calling (614) 563-2513