



# POST-OP EXTRACTION

## | DOB:

### EXTRACTION

#### *Post-Operative Care Instructions*

#### Local Anesthesia

- The numbness from the anesthetic injection will wear off within a few hours. You may experience tenderness, mild swelling or bruising to the injection site. In rare cases, prolonged numbness can occur. Please contact our office if numbness does not wear off within 48 hours of surgery.

#### Use Caution

After an extraction it is crucial that a blood clot forms in the area that the tooth was extracted. Therefore, for the first 24 hours:

- **DO NOT: rinse, spit or suck through a straw (suction will cause the clot to be pulled out.)**
- DO NOT: drink alcohol or use mouth rinses containing alcohol (these will dissolve the clot.)
- DO NOT SMOKE FOR 5 DAYS AFTER EXTRACTION. Nicotine will keep tissue growth from occurring and will result in a painful condition known as dry socket.
- AVOID: exercise or heavy lifting (this can cause your blood clot to be pushed out.)
- Swelling may occur; ice packs can be used in 15 minute intervals for the first 6 hours to reduce swelling.
  
- To prevent or slow excessive bleeding, bite with light pressure on the gauze that has been placed over the extraction site, changing the gauze every 15 minutes or as needed for up to 90 minutes after leaving the office. You should wet the gauze and squeeze excess water out of it before placing it over the extraction site. Placing dry gauze over site will allow clot to dry to gauze resulting in clot removal when changing.
- Place a folded towel over your pillow in case of any bleeding while sleeping.
- If you have heavy bleeding, severe pain or continued swelling 3 to 4 days after extraction please contact our office for a short appointment to check the extraction site.
- If sutures (stitches) were placed, We will need to see you back in 2 weeks for a suture removal appointment.

#### Impacted Teeth

Removing impacted teeth is very different from extracting erupted teeth. If you had an impacted tooth removed, you will likely have these symptoms for a short time:

- Difficulty opening your mouth
- Pain while swallowing
- Earache on the side of you surgery

If the impacted tooth was in your lower jaw, you may have numbness in your lower lip or tongue on the side where the tooth was removed. This numbness should go away, but it may last from a few days to many months. You may also have sores on your lips after surgery. Use petroleum jelly (Vaseline) on your lips until they heal.

## Diet

- For 2 days after surgery, drink liquids and eat soft foods only. Such as milkshakes, eggnog, yogurt, cooked cereals, cottage cheese, smooth soups, mashed potatoes, refried beans, ice cream, pudding, fruit smoothies and protein shakes.
- On day 3 after surgery, eat soft foods that do not require much chewing, such as macaroni and cheese, cooked noodles, soft-boiled, scrambled or poached eggs and soft sandwiches. Avoid tough or crunchy foods, such as pizza, rice, popcorn, and hamburger. Avoid spicy and acidic foods.
- Most patients may resume their normal diet 7 days after surgery

## Pain Management

- Medicines to control pain and prevent infection will be prescribed for you. It is very important that you take all medicines **as recommended** by **Doctor**.
- Start taking your pain medicine before the numbness wears off. Continue to take it as prescribed.
- The dose for pain medicine is usually 400 mg to 800 mg ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin, or generic) every 6 hours. If you have an allergy or sensitivity to ibuprofen, or have been told not to use it, you may take up to 1,000 mg acetaminophen (Tylenol or generic) every 6 hours.
- Follow the pain medicine instructions **Doctor** gave you. If we believe you may have more severe pain, we will prescribe a stronger pain medicine which you will need to buy at a pharmacy.

## Oral Hygiene

Begin your normal hygiene routine the day after surgery.

- Soreness and swelling may not permit vigorous brushing of all areas, but please make every effort to clean your teeth within the bounds of comfort.
- If you use an electric toothbrush, feel free to use it just as you would a manual toothbrush.
- Brush very gently around the extraction site being careful not to loosen or remove the clot.
- If you were given an irrigating syringe, start using it the fifth day after surgery to keep sockets clean.
- Mix one teaspoon of salt dissolved in a tall glass of warm water.
- Fill the syringe with the warm salt water and irrigate any open sockets gently, especially after eating.

## Dry Sockets

Normal healing after tooth extraction should be as follows:

- The first three days of surgery are usually the most uncomfortable and there is some degree of swelling and stiffness.
- From the third day on, gradual, steady movements should mark the remainder of your recovery course.
- If there is a noticeable, distinct, persistent throbbing pain in the jaw that arises after the 4th day, please call our office. We would like the opportunity to help alleviate any discomfort.

## Sharp Edges

You may feel sharp edges near your surgical site, occasionally small slivers of bone may work themselves out during the first week or two after surgery. They are not pieces of tooth, but if they are bothersome we will remove them. Please call the office if you are concerned.

## Denture Wear

- If you usually wear a removable dental device that replaces missing teeth and rests on the surgery area, check with **Doctor** before starting to wear it again after surgery.
- It is important not to put any pressure on the surgery site.
- If your bite feels different when you start wearing the device again, or if you had a dental implant and it feels like the device is hitting the implant, call our office.

Please call our office (360) 825 6596 if you have any questions or difficulties. If it is after hours, follow the prompts to be connected to our answering service. If you feel that your symptoms warrant a physician, and you are unable to reach Doctor, please go to the closest hospital emergency room immediately.

**Thank you for allowing us to be part of your dental care. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.**

Patient's signature:

Date:

Doctor's signature:

Date: