

LOUIS F. CLARIZIO, DDS PA
ORAL SURGERY & DENTAL IMPLANT CENTER

GENERAL POSTOPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

We are committed to providing the same quality of care following procedures that began during your initial visit.

1. **FLUID AND FOOD INTAKE IS IMPORTANT.** First, remove the gauze from your mouth. Start with clear carbonated beverages such as ginger ale, Seven-up, or Sprite. You can also have cool or warm soft foods: pancakes, mashed potatoes, jello, scrambled eggs, omelettes, pasta, muffins. Avoid hot liquids until the numbness has worn off, and the bleeding has stopped. Avoid dairy products the first half of the day especially if your stomach is upset as dairy can cause nausea. Once you have eaten some of the previously suggested foods and your stomach is doing fine then you can have dairy. Since you are numb from novocaine beware of hot temperatures, cool everything first.

IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO DRINK FLUIDS AND EAT:

- **SO YOU DO NOT GET DEHYDRATED AND LIGHTEADED**
- **IN CASE YOU NEED TO TAKE SOME OF THE STRONGER PAIN MEDS**

2. **AVOID USING A STRAW FOR SEVEN DAYS** as it may cause the blood clot to dislodge and delay healing.
3. After you have eaten you can replace the gauze we have provided. You should replace the gauze packs every 30-45 minutes for the first couple of hours. **THE BLEEDING MAY LAST UNTIL BEDTIME.** If the bleeding later in the day does not seem to be under control, biting on a tea bag wet with cold water for 30 minutes may help control persistent oozing. Tea has an ingredient that promotes blood clotting. Should active bleeding persist, please call the office. **DO NOT DISTURB THE AREA OF SURGERY.** Avoid vigorous chewing, excessive spitting, or rinsing as initial healing may be delayed, active bleeding restarted, or infection introduced.
4. **PAIN FOLLOWING ORAL SURGERY** will be most severe within the first 6-8 hours after the operation. You were either prescribed **CELEBREX** or **MOTRIN**.
 - a. If **CELEBREX**, you should have taken 1, one hour prior to surgery, then 1 every 12 hours. If the pain is not under control you can supplement the celebrex with either Tylenol (acetaminophen) or percocet (roxicet, oxycodone). **MAKE SURE TO EAT BEFORE YOU TAKE THE PERCOCET! DO NOT TAKE ON AN EMPTY STOMACH!**

When the celebrex is gone after 4 days, if you are still having some pain and swelling, you can then switch to one of the following: Aleve (lasts 12 hours), Advil, Motrin, Ibuprofen. **PLEASE WAIT TO TAKE THEM 12 HOURS AFTER YOUR LAST CELEBREX!!**

- b. If **MOTRIN**, you should take up to 800mgs when you get home, then take every 6-8 hours. **BOTH CELEBREX AND MOTRIN ARE FOR PAIN AND SWELLING! DO NOT TAKE CELEBREX AND MOTRIN TOGETHER!**

Please, do not drink alcoholic beverages while taking prescription pain medication. Moderate to severe pain usually does not last longer than 24-48 hours, and there should be no more than slight pain or discomfort after the third day. Persistent or increasing pain 3-4 days following oral surgery may be caused by early loss of the blood clot (dry socket) or infection, causing pain going up towards your ear, or a bad taste in your mouth. The best thing for a dry socket are the anti-inflammatories we prescribed (Celebrex or Motrin). Dry sockets go away on their own, but if the pain is unmanageable, please call the office and we can place a medicated packing, which we would need to change a few times over a course of 3-7 days. You are at a higher risk for a dry socket if you take the birth control pill or do not stop smoking 2 weeks prior to surgery.

5. Take any **ANTIBIOTICS** we may have prescribed. If prescribed a week's worth, you should take daily probiotics or acidophilus found in the vitamin section of the pharmacy or health food store. The acidophilus is to prevent diarrhea. If you do get diarrhea, stop the antibiotics right away and call us. Other than that you should finish taking the antibiotics until gone. If you are given antibiotics and take the birth control pill, you should be aware that the birth control pill **MAY BECOME INEFFECTIVE**; take appropriate precautions.
6. Take any regularly scheduled medication on your regular schedule unless advised to do otherwise.
7. **SWELLING RELATED TO THE SURGICAL PROCEDURE** usually develops during the first 12-24 hours following surgery, often increasing up to the third day. It should start to subside on the fourth day. Swelling can be minimized a great deal by wearing the ice wrap on the side of your face for the first 24 hours. You can take a break from the ice 15 minutes every now and then, unless you receive special instructions. Moist heat should replace the ice packs after the first 24 hours.
8. **LIMIT PHYSICAL ACTIVITY** during the first 3-5 days after surgery. Over-exertion may lead to postoperative bleeding and discomfort. Within the first 24-48 hours after surgery, when you lie down, keep your head elevated on a pillow. When you have been lying down for a while, get up slowly. Sit up for a few minutes, then get up. If you get up too fast, you could become lightheaded and faint. **FOR THE FIRST 24 HOURS YOU SHOULD HAVE SOMEONE WITH YOU WHEN ATTEMPTING TO GET UP AND GO SOMEWHERE!!!**
9. **DO NOT DRIVE AN AUTOMOBILE** for 24 hours following surgery if you have had intravenous sedation, or if you are taking prescription severe pain medication.
10. **IF YOU WERE INFORMED THAT SINUS COMMUNICATION OCCURRED DURING SURGERY**, as a close relationship between the roots of your upper teeth and your sinuses, or if you have had some surgery that involved work near your sinuses or in your sinuses, please follow these instructions:
 - **DO NOT BLOW YOUR NOSE.**
 - **DO NOT SNEEZE THROUGH YOUR NOSE. IF THE URGE TO SNEEZE ARISES, SNEEZE WITH YOUR MOUTH OPEN.**
 - **DO NOT SMOKE OR USE A STRAW.**
 - **AVOID SWIMMING AND STRENUOUS EXERCISE FOR AT LEAST A WEEK.**

It is not uncommon to have a slight amount of bleeding from the nose for several days.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT OCCASIONALLY A SECOND PROCEDURE MAY BE REQUIRED IF THERE IS A PERSISTENT COMMUNICATION.

THE DAY FOLLOWING SURGERY AND THEREAFTER

1. The day after surgery, start rinsing your mouth carefully with solution made by adding 1/2 teaspoon of salt to a large glass of warm water. Repeat three times a day until remaining soreness subsides. Resume brushing any remaining teeth and your regular oral hygiene as soon as possible. Make sure to brush the area of the extraction **GENTLY** to avoid inflammation in the area. Please do not use a syringe or Water Pik to aggressively rinse for the first week. **THIS MAY DISLODGE THE BLOOD CLOT.**
2. Do not worry about stitches. Sutures were placed to control bleeding and aid healing. Generally, they dissolve on their own 3 to 7 days later. If they fall out they do not have to be replaced.
3. **SWELLING, SORENESS, OR STIFFNESS OF THE JAW MUSCLES** can be relieved by applying a warm, moist towel to the affected side of the face several times a day. Moist heat should be used **AFTER** the first 24 hours. If swelling, tenderness or pain should increase after the first few days, call the office.
4. Sometimes a soft diet may be necessary for the first few days following surgery. Most patients are able to resume regular food intake within a short time.
5. Bruising marks may appear on the skin of the face during the first few days after surgery. Moist heat application will help relieve this condition.
6. Some discomfort may be due to a canker sore, which can be quite painful. These usually occur 3-4 days after surgery and can last 7-10 days. Over-the-counter products that may help with discomfort until they go away:
 - **PEROXYL** - Which you swish around your mouth for 1 minute and then spit out
 - **ZILACTIN** - Place a little on a q-tip and place on the canker sore.

Extremely painful or persistent canker sores can be treated in our offices. Please call to set up an appointment to address this issue.

If you need assistance over the weekend, please call around 9:00am, so we may answer any questions you may have. We appreciate your patience as we do our best to keep you comfortable during the healing process.

FAITHFUL COMPLIANCE WITH THESE INSTRUCTIONS WILL ADD TO YOUR COMFORT AND HASTEN YOUR RECOVERY. Be sure to follow these instructions carefully. Only in this way will you avoid complications which may lead to unnecessary discomfort and delayed recovery. Should any undue reaction or complication arise, notify the office immediately.

If you need to contact us after office hours, please call the office at **603-436-8222**.

I make every attempt to answer my emergency pager as promptly as possible. Occasionally, our messages do not reach my pager. If you do not hear from the office on-call **WITHIN ONE-HALF HOUR**, please call back and ask to have the office paged again. Do this until your page has been answered by the office.