



POST OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOLLOWING PERIODONTAL SURGERY

For rapid healing, it is essential that the following directions be adhered to during the first two weeks following surgery:

1. **DISCOMFORT:** Discomfort will vary from patient to patient. Taking the prescribed medication as directed can control discomfort. **Studies indicate that taking these pills before discomfort starts is most effective.** The following protocol is recommended:
MOTRIN 800mg. (IBUPROFEN) every 8 hours.
NARCOTIC MEDICATIONS (TYLENOL #3, VICODIN OR PERCOCEP) can be taken in addition (every 4-6 hours) if discomfort continues after using the Motrin. Be aware that narcotic medications will make you drowsy. Therefore you should not drive while taking these medications.
2. **ANTIBIOTICS:** If these have been prescribed for you, use them as directed. If any unfavorable reaction occurs (nausea, vomiting, headache, dizziness, rash, etc.) while taking this or any medication, discontinue its use and contact our office immediately.
3. **SWELLING:** Swelling and discoloration is not unusual and usually disappears within a week. This can be controlled by applying an ice pack to the surgical area (20 minutes on and 20 minutes off) for the first 24 hours after surgery. Warm, moist packs may be used after the initial 24 hour period to help reduce swelling and promote healing.
4. **BLEEDING:** Slight seeping from the surgical area is to be expected for at least 24 hours. **Please refrain from spitting out blood that accumulates. This makes it bleed more. Instead, either swallow it or gently dispense into a cup.**

Drink plenty of iced-cold beverages. Should oozing or bleeding occur, it may be stopped by gently biting on a moist gauze or a moist tea bag. **If persistent bleeding occurs, call immediately for instructions.**

5. CARE OF THE MOUTH: **YOU SHOULD NOT BRUSH, FLOSS OR PROXABRUSH THE SURGICAL AREA** until your next postoperative appointment. Peridex mouth rinse has been prescribed to keep the surgical area clean. Rinse for 30 seconds after each meal. All other areas of your mouth should be brushed, flossed or proxabrusched. Avoid stretching cheeks or lips to observe the surgical site. Do not pull or remove any loose stitches.
6. DIET: Adequate nutrition is essential for normal healing. **COLD OR LUKE WARM, SOFT FOODS SHOULD BE CHEWED SLOWLY.** A high protein diet is desirable (milk, eggs, cottage cheese and yogurt.) Anything with seeds or hard crust should not be eaten during this initial healing.
7. NUMBNESS: You may be numb for several hours after surgery. This may include parts of your lip and tongue. Therefore avoid biting these areas.
8. SURGICAL DRESSING: If a surgical dressing was placed, it is important that this remain in place. Avoid excessive movement of the tongue, cheeks or lips which may dislodge the dressing. It is not uncommon for small pieces of dressing to break off in the days following surgery. If the uncovered area causes no discomfort, it is safe to wait until your next appointment. If substantial bleeding and/or pain result, call the office for instruction.

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to call the office.