



IMPRESSIONS DENTAL

Post-Operative Care: Instructions for Home Care

It is important to take care of your surgery site.
Please follow these instructions.

1. Bite on gauze for 30 minutes to stop any bleeding. If bleeding continues, place another gauze and continue to apply pressure.
2. Do not rinse today. Tomorrow morning, start rinsing gently with warm salt water (1/4 teaspoon of salt to 1 cup of water) every four (4) hours for two (2) days.
3. Swelling- Ice bag or a cold moist cloth should periodically be applied to operated area. Your dentist may give specific instructions on how long and how often to use a cold compress.
4. **For at least 24 hours, do not:**
 - Smoke
 - Drink through a straw
 - Drink alcohol, carbonated beverages, or hot liquids
 - Blow your nose
 - Spit excessively

Any of these things may cause the blood clot over the surgery site to dislodge from the “socket”, causing a “dry socket” and resulting in unnecessary pain. (Should this happen, call this office to see the doctor as soon as possible.)

5. **Do maintain a soft diet** for the remainder of the day—things like warm soup, ice cream, milk shakes (remember NO straws), etc.
6. **If your pain, discomfort, or bleeding continues or worsens**, call the office for a re-examination.
7. **If you were given medications, take them according to the instructions.** If you have non-aspirin over-the-counter pain medications at home, you may take them according to the instructions.
8. **Bony Edges.** Small sharp bone fragments may work up through the gums during healing. These are not roots; if uncomfortable, return to this office for their simple removal.
9. **If any problems or questions do arise**, please feel free to call the office (520) 374-2400.