

Young Smiles Family Dentistry

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Patient Instructions After Extractions

After tooth extraction, it's important for a blood clot to form to stop the bleeding and begin the healing process. That's why we ask you to bite on a gauze pad for 45 minutes after the appointment. If the bleeding or oozing persists, insert another gauze pad and bite firmly for another 30 minutes. You may have to do this several times.

1. Do not rinse or spit for 24 hours after surgery.
2. Keep your fingers and tongue away from the socket or surgical area.
3. Use ice packs on the surgical area (side of face) for the first 48 hours; apply ice 20 minutes on and 10 minutes off. (Note: Bags of frozen peas work well.)
4. For mild discomfort take one tablet of Tylenol (325 mg) or 2 to 4 tablets of Ibuprofen (200 mg) every four to six hours unless you cannot take either medication. (Please inform the dentist of any drug allergies)
5. Drink plenty of fluids. (Do not use a straw—this can disturb the surgery site)
6. We suggest that you do not smoke for at least 5 days after surgery. Smoking may break down the blood clot and cause a "dry socket".
7. Avoid strenuous activity and do not exercise for at least 3–4 days after surgery. After that, be careful: your regular caloric and fluid intake have been reduced, so you may get light-headed, dizzy, or weak.
8. If the muscles of the jaw become stiff, the use of warm moist heat to the outside of your face over the spots that are stiff will relax these muscles.
9. After the first post-operative day, use a warm saltwater rinse following meals for the first week to flush out particles of food and debris that may lodge in the surgical area. (Mix ½ teaspoon of salt in a glass of warm water).
10. Your diet should consist mainly of soft, easily swallowed foods and cool drinks (no hot food). Avoid anything that might get stuck in your teeth, so no seeds, nuts, rice, popcorn, or similar foods.

Questions? We Are Here To Help

Please contact our office if you have any questions or issues with these instructions.

267.279.7674