



POST SURGICAL INSTRUCTIONS

These instructions are designed to advise you of procedures that will aid in promoting comfortable healing and inform you of situations that may possibly require special attention. If you have any adverse reactions to any of the medications, discontinue use immediately and call our office. If you have a medical emergency, seek immediate help by calling 911.

ANTIBIOTICS

You may be prescribed an antibiotic and will typically take the first dose one hour prior to the appointment. You will take the next dose at the next meal time for the remainder of the day and continue the regimen prescribed until finished.

DISCOMFORT

Soreness and pain following your surgery is normal. In many instances, taking one (500mg) Tylenol and two (200mg) Advil tablets, every 4 hours will be sufficient to relieve discomfort. You may be given a prescription for a more potent medication to enhance a mild post-surgical recovery period. If Tylenol is not sufficient, REPLACE Tylenol with the more potent medication. The first dose should be taken within one hour of being discharged from the office. This medication may be taken with food to help prevent nausea.

Instructions for a sinus lift (only if prescribed not all sinus lifts require): start the Medrol Dose Pack the day prior to surgery, and start the Afrin Nasal Spray the day after surgery.

HEALING:

Swelling and/or bruising may follow your surgical procedure. To help minimize swelling and bruising, use an ice pack for 20 minutes on and 20 minutes off for the first 48-72 hours. Start the ice pack application as soon as possible following the surgery. You may hold ice chips in your mouth when the ice pack is not present for the remainder of the day. Try not to rinse on the day of surgery because this may disturb blood clots and slow healing.

The swelling or discoloration may continue for 3-4 days after surgery and then subside. If swelling continues after the third day, heat may be applied to the involved area in the form of a warm wet compresses as often as is convenient. The gum tissue in the surgical area may appear white in color, especially if a gum graft has been performed. This is because the mouth is moist and a hard scab does not form. This is common and there is no need for concern. Bruising may be present in varying degrees; which will subside over a period of up to 10 days.

BLEEDING

You can anticipate some seepage or slight bleeding for the first day. A small amount of bleeding is all that is necessary to discolor your saliva. This is normal. If bleeding occurs, it may be controlled by placing a moist (black) tea bag over the area with constant pressure for 30 minutes (repeat if necessary). If bleeding has a continuous flow and will not stop, give the office a call at (303)-695-0990 and an on-call doctor will get back to you.

POSTURE

Keep your head in an elevated position for the first 3 days following surgery. Sleep/relax with a few pillows behind your head. Maintaining an up-right position will help reduce swelling.

ALCOHOL AND SMOKING

Avoid alcohol for the first week following surgery. Do not drink alcohol if you are taking discomfort medication. No recreational drug use. Do not smoke (cigarettes, marijuana, vape) for at least 72 hours following surgery as smoking will cause slower healing.

ORAL HYGIENE AND RINSING

The day following your surgery, carefully brush and floss your teeth in the areas where surgery has not been performed. If the surgery was performed in your entire mouth, please avoid brushing until the sutures are removed. During that time, you can use Listerine ZERO or Crest Pro Health to keep the surgical site clean until sutures are removed and further instruction is given.

ACTIVITY

Do not engage in any strenuous activity (exercising, power walking, swimming, etc.) for 7 days following surgery. Do not lift anything over 30 lbs.

SUTURES

For most procedures, sutures will be used during healing. These sutures will become loose as swelling goes down and it is not uncommon for some to come out. This is normal.

SURGICAL STENT AND PERIODONTAL DRESSING (for gum grafts only)

Stents are provided for patients having tissue grafts to protect the donor site. Please leave the stent in for the first 24 hours. This includes sleeping with it in, as applying pressure to the palate will help prevent swelling and help with the clotting. After the first 24 hours, use the stent while eating and sleeping, and removing it during daily cleaning.

Occasionally a periodontal dressing may be used over the gum graft. This is done if the doctor thinks that the graft site needs extra protection during the initial few days of healing. It is usual for the periodontal dressing to become brittle over time and it may start to crack or come off completely. At the time of your gum graft surgery, your doctor will advise you whether or not you need to contact them if the dressing cracks or comes off.

SINUS LIFTS ONLY

Do not blow your nose, wipe gently if needed. Try to sneeze through your mouth, to avoid putting any pressure on your sinus.

DIET

Try to eat on the side of the mouth where surgery was not performed. While you are numb, stay on a cold liquid diet and once you are no longer numb, you may eat soft foods.

Adequate nutrition is essential for healing. Avoid irritating foods that are spicy or acidic and carbonated beverages for at least 3 days. If you were given a Triazolam prior to procedure, stay as hydrated as possible.

Foods to avoid post week surgery:

- Foods above room temperature (ie: hot soups, hot coffee)
- Foods that are difficult to chew (ie: steak)
- Food that can get trapped easily (ie: popcorn, nuts, seeded fruits)
- Crunchy items (ie: breads, bagels, cookies, potato chips, granola)
- Citrus fruits/juices (ie: orange juice, tomatoes)
- Spicy foods
- Alcoholic beverages (ie: beer and wine)

Recommended foods:

- Hearty soups
- Yogurt, popsicles, ice cream
- Pudding, custard, jello
- Soft fruits (ie: banana, canned peaches, applesauce)
- Cooked vegetables
- Fruit smoothies/protein shakes (no seeded fruits ie: strawberries, raspberries)
- Eggs
- Cream of wheat
- Mashed potatoes
- Pasta (avoid red sauce)
- Fish and ground beef
- Mac & Cheese
- Plenty of fluids

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