

Tooth Extraction AFTERCARE

1 Remove gauze

Maintain firm pressure on the gauze over the surgical area for about **30 minutes**. After this time, remove and dispose of the gauze, then replace it with fresh gauze directly over the surgical area **as needed for active bleeding**. Repeat this process until the bleeding subsides.

2 Avoid rinsing or touching

Avoid rigorous mouth rinsing or touching the wound after surgery, as this can cause the blood clot to dislodge and lead to bleeding.

- If you were prescribed a mouth rinse, you may start this the day after surgery and *lightly spit*. Avoid straws for one week.

3 Take prescribed medication

We recommend taking the prescribed pain medications as soon as the initial gauze is removed, prior to the local anesthetic wearing off. It is important to continue your antibiotic for the entire time prescribed.

Avoid taking medications on an empty stomach

4 Restrict activities

Avoid strenuous activity or heavy lifting for a minimum of 1-2 days after surgery unless otherwise advised by your doctor.

5 Ice packs

Place ice packs to the side of the face where surgery was performed for 20-30 minutes at a time for the first 24-36 hrs to help reduce swelling and discomfort.



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Bleeding: A certain amount of bleeding is to be expected following surgery. Slight bleeding, oozing or redness in the saliva is not uncommon. Excessive bleeding may be controlled by first rinsing or wiping any old clots from your mouth, then placing a gauze pad over the area and biting firmly for thirty minutes. Repeat if necessary. In order to stop bleeding, the pressure from the gauze must be placed directly over the surgical area. Chewing on the gauze only stimulates saliva flow, increases the risk of more bleeding, and risks injury to the numb oral structures. If the blood completely soaks through the gauze within thirty minutes, we recommend using a moistened black tea bag; the tannin has hemostatic properties which help stop the bleeding. If bleeding still does not subside, please call the office for further instructions.

Swelling/Bruising: Swelling/bruising around the mouth, cheeks, eyes, and sides of the face is not uncommon. This is the body's normal reaction to surgery and repair. Swelling generally peaks around 2-3 days after surgery. To help reduce swelling, take your medications as prescribed and apply ice packs to the sides of the face where surgery was performed for the first 24-36 hours. If swelling or jaw stiffness persists for several days, there is no cause for alarm. However, if you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to ask!

Pain: Pain or discomfort following surgery is usually at its worst 24-48 hours after surgery. After that, the pain should lessen and subside more and more each day. If pain worsens or does not improve, it may require attention. *Take your pain medications as prescribed/instructed.*

Nausea/Vomiting: Nausea and vomiting are common side effects of IV sedation and many narcotic oral pain medications. This is usually temporary and improves within 24-48 hours with rest and hydration. Start by sipping slowly on clear liquids and gradually advance to soft foods. If your doctor prescribed anti-nausea medicine, take it as instructed.

Diet: We recommend starting with soft, easy to chew foods, avoiding chips, nuts, popcorn, crackers for the first few days and then advance as comfortable. In the days following surgery, prevent dehydration by taking fluids regularly. Nourishment and hydration are important for a smooth recovery.

Antibiotics: If you have been placed on antibiotics, take the tablets or liquid as directed to help prevent or treat infection. Discontinue antibiotic use in the event of a rash or other unfavorable reaction. Please contact the office if you have any questions.



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