

DENNIS G. PETTIT, D.D.S., INC.

Practice Limited to Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

1762 Commerce Center Blvd.
Fairborn, OH 45324
(937) 878-8694

2225 N. Limestone St.
Springfield, OH 45503
(937) 399-0164

POST OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS **FOR EXTRACTIONS WITH GENERAL ANESTHESIA**

1. When you return home, as soon as the patient is ready to have something to eat or drink, start on clear liquids (Sprite, water, ginger ale). Go slow, not to upset the stomach. Once you are sure the patient's stomach is not upset, he or she may begin eating soft, cool foods. If pain medication was given, start it within a couple of hours after surgery when the numbness begins to wear off and you have something on your stomach. You will start the antibiotics several hours later after you are sure your stomach is not upset by the pain medication.
2. Bite down on gauze continuously until the bleeding stops. You may remove the gauze when you want to drink or eat, but replace it with clean, damp gauze afterward if you are still bleeding. Remember to change the gauze every 20-30 minutes until the bleeding has stopped. If you find the bleeding increases at any point, or if you run out of gauze, you may try a damp tea bag. Bite down on this for 20-30 minutes. The tannins in the tea promote blood clotting. You may have some redness to your saliva for a few days, and this is nothing to be concerned about.
3. **DO NOT SMOKE** for 3 days.
4. Do not drink through a straw for 3 days.
5. Do not gargle, spit or vigorously rinse for 3 days. You may gently brush the day after your surgery.
6. Apply ice packs to the area of your face where the teeth have been removed (20 minutes on, 20 minutes off) for 24-48 hours to decrease the swelling.
7. Relax in a recliner for the rest of the day. If you do not have a recliner, please use a couple of pillows behind your head so that it is elevated.
8. If a syringe was provided to you: **one week AFTER surgery** you will fill it with water and flush the extraction site(s) after every meal. Continue to do so until the hole is no longer seen.
9. Call the office immediately if you develop increased swelling, pain, pus or a bad taste after the first 72 hours.
10. If stitches were placed during your surgery, they will dissolve on their own. You do not need to return for a follow up visit unless otherwise instructed by the doctor.
11. **ESCORTS: Please remember to stay with the patient when they are standing up after surgery. They will be unstable and more likely to fall for the rest of the day after their surgery, especially upon rising from a supine (laying down) position.**

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL OUR OFFICE IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS OR QUESTIONS.