

**WALTER K. MURPHY, D.D.S**

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**ORAL & MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY**

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**Post-Operative Instructions for Patients Following  
Placement of an Immediate Denture**

- For the first 24 hours your immediate denture is not to be removed from your mouth. If the denture is removed, swelling may occur that will make it difficult or impossible to replace the denture. Oozing of blood around the denture is normal and is not cause for concern. Your immediate denture not only replaces your missing teeth but is acting to protect the surgical site, control swelling, and control bleeding. The denture needs to be in place to be effective.
- You can gently rinse your mouth with water during the first 24 hours; however, continue to brush your remaining teeth carefully. After 24 hours, rinse your mouth 3 to 4 times a day for the next four to five days.
- After extractions, do not spit, smoke, or suck on a straw. All of these things can dislodge blood clots that are necessary for healing. Do not rinse your mouth vigorously. Do not drink any hot beverages or eat anything hot as this can cause the surgical sites to bleed.
- Take all medications as prescribed. If a prescription for pain medication is written, you should not operate a motor vehicle while taking this medication. Some discomfort may be expected following oral surgery procedures.
- Swelling is common after oral surgery for up to one week with the maximum amount of swelling usually present on the third day after surgery. The swelling will slowly resolve over 4-7 days. Apply an ice pack to the outside of the face for 30 minutes, and then leave off for 30 minutes. Repeat this procedure for 24 hours to 48 hours and then discontinue using the ice. This will reduce discomfort, bleeding, and swelling.
- You may eat and drink. Soft foods are advisable for at least 24 hours. Avoid hard or crunchy foods. Drink as much liquid as possible, but do not go on a liquid diet. Do not consume liquids through a straw. You may resume normal physical activity the following day unless on prescription pain medication.