

POST-OPERATIVE CARE FOLLOWING EXTRACTIONS & ORAL SURGERY

A certain amount of bleeding, pain and swelling is normal.

Reduce your activity as much as possible for several hours. Avoid eating, drinking and unnecessary talking. During the first 24 hours, do not rinse your mouth or brush your teeth. These activities may hinder formation of a blood clot which is necessary for proper healing.

Do not be alarmed if your vision is blurred for a time following anesthesia or if a “black and blue” bruise should appear at the site an injection.

To Control Bleeding

Immediately following the procedure, keep steady pressure on the bleeding area by biting firmly on the gauze pad placed in your mouth by the doctor. Pressure helps reduce bleeding and permits formation of a clot in the tooth socket. Gently remove the compress and replace it with a fresh, folded gauze pad every one-half hour, or as needed.

After 24 hours, some oozing of the blood may persist. If necessary, resume use of sterile gauze pads. After bleeding has stopped, cautiously resume oral hygiene.

To Relieve Pain

Immediately following the procedure, apply an ice pad over the affected area. Use 15 minutes on and 15 minutes off to prevent development of excessive swelling and discomfort.

After 24 hours, it should not be necessary to continue with cold applications. However, contact your doctor for instructions on continued care if swelling persists or if a fever develops.