



Post-Operative Instructions: Dental Implants

Do not disturb the wound. Avoid rinsing, spitting or touching the wound on the day of surgery. There may be a metal healing abutment protruding through the gingival (gum) tissue.

Bleeding

Some bleeding or redness in saliva is normal for 24 hours. Excessive bleeding (your mouth fills up rapidly with blood) can be controlled by biting on a gauze pad placed directly on the bleeding wound for 30-60 minutes. Change the gauze pad every 30 minutes as needed. If excessive bleeding continues, please call for further instructions. (In general, use as little pressure as is needed). Remove gauze when it is no longer needed.

Swelling

Swelling is a normal occurrence after surgery. To minimize swelling, apply an ice bag or plastic bag or towel filled with ice cubes on the cheeks in the area of surgery. Apply the ice continuously, as much as possible, for the first 24-36 hours. Swelling generally reaches a peak in 2-36 hours, and then subsides over the next three to five days. If swelling begins to increase after the third post-operative day, please contact your doctor immediately.

Diet

Drink plenty of fluids. Avoid hot liquids or food. Soft food and liquids should be eaten on the day of surgery. Return to a normal diet as soon as possible unless otherwise directed.

Pain

You should begin taking pain medication prior to the local anesthetic wearing off. For moderate pain, one or two Regular Strength Tylenol (325mg) may be taken every six hours (no more than 2600mg/24 hour period). Ibuprofen (Advil or Motrin) may be taken instead of Tylenol. Ibuprofen bought over the counter comes in 200mg tablets; 3-4 tablets may be taken every four to six hours as needed for pain (no more than 3200mg/24 hour period). For severe pain the prescribed medication should be taken as directed (please note if this prescription has Tylenol {APA} in it, see the above comments). Do not take any of the above medication if you are allergic or have been instructed by your doctor not to take it. This may include patients with liver and kidney disease.

Antibiotics

Be sure to take the prescribed antibiotics as directed to help prevent infection.

Oral Hygiene

Good oral hygiene is essential to good healing. Warm salt water rinses (teaspoon of salt in a cup of warm water) should be used at least four to five times a day, especially after meals. If you are given a prescription for Peridex Oral Rinse, rinse for 30 seconds and spit twice a day. Brushing your teeth and the healing abutment is no problem. Be gentle initially (within first seven days) with brushing surgical areas.

Activity

Keep physical activities to a minimum immediately following surgery. If you are exercising, throbbing or bleeding may occur. If this occurs, you should discontinue exercising. Keep in mind that you are probably not taking in normal nourishment. This may weaken you and further limit your ability to exercise.

Wearing your Prosthesis

Partial dentures, flippers or full dentures should not be used immediately after surgery. You may wear these prostheses as soon as it is comfortable.