



Central Valley Periodontics & Implants

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POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS – HARD TISSUE

Pain: It is best to start the pain medication before the local anesthetic wears off. Take your pain medicine as prescribed for the first 3-4 days after surgery. If you feel that you are having an adverse reaction to the medication, immediately stop taking it and call the office.

Swelling: Ice should be placed to the outside of the face over the surgical area immediately after surgery. Use an ice pack for about 10 minutes of each hour for the first 12 hours. You should also keep your head elevated above your heart for the first 48 hours. While these will help minimize swelling, some swelling is normal in the first 3-4 days.

Bleeding: The surgical area will ooze slightly for the first 1-2 days. This means that your saliva will appear pink or light red. Active bleeding is indicated by bright red blood in your saliva. If this occurs, place a moist gauze or tea bag over the site and apply constant, firm pressure for 15 minutes. This normally will stop any bleeding. If active bleeding still occurs call the office.

Antibiotics: Take any antibiotics as prescribed by the doctor. If you feel that you are having an adverse reaction to the medication, immediately stop taking it and call the office.

Food: Only eat soft foods during the first week. This means do not eat anything hard, crunchy, or with tiny seeds (such as nuts, potato chips, popcorn, and strawberries). Avoid hot and/or spicy foods because these may encourage swelling. Cool, icy drinks will help soothe the mouth as well as help to reduce bleeding and swelling. **DO NOT USE A STRAW DURING THE FIRST WEEK.**

Smoking and Alcohol: Avoid tobacco, marijuana, and alcohol use for the first few days. These habits may increase the risk of complications during healing.

Home Care: During the first week, brush and floss all teeth normally EXCEPT those in the surgical area. Brush the teeth in the surgical area as instructed by the office. Do not attempt to brush the surgical dressing. If you have a surgical dressing and it prematurely comes off DO NOT brush or floss the area. You may gently rinse the area with warm salt water. Dissolve 1/8 teaspoon of salt in 8 oz. of warm water. Gently rinse 4-5 times per day especially after eating.

Surgical Dressing: You may have a surgical dressing applied to cover the treatment area. The dressing will be removed at the first post-operative visit. If the dressing comes loose before four days after surgery call our office.

IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS OR QUESTIONS, DO NOT HESITATE TO TELEPHONE THE OFFICE AT ANY TIME. 209-572-6008.