

MAXILLO



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### ***Surgical Instructions For Home Care After Placement Of Dental Implants***

Post-operative care is very important. Unnecessary pain and the complications of infection and swelling can be minimized if the instructions are followed carefully.

#### ***Bleeding***

A certain amount of bleeding is to be expected following surgery. Slight bleeding, oozing, or redness in the saliva is not uncommon. Excessive bleeding may be controlled by first carefully rinsing old clots from your mouth, then placing a gauze pad over the area and biting firmly for thirty minutes. Repeat if necessary. If bleeding continues, bite on a moistened, squeeze dried tea bag (not Rooibos tea) for sixty minutes, repeat as necessary. The tannic acid in the dry tea bag helps to form a clot by contracting bleeding vessels. To minimize further bleeding, do not become excited, sit upright, and avoid exercise. If bleeding does not subside, call for further instructions.

#### ***Swelling***

The swelling that is normally expected is usually proportional to the surgery involved. Swelling around the mouth, cheeks, eyes and sides of the face is not uncommon. This is the body's normal reaction to surgery and eventual repair. The swelling will not become apparent until the day following surgery and will not reach its maximum until 2-3 days post-operatively. However, the swelling may be minimized by the immediate use of ice packs. Two zip lock plastic bags filled with ice, or ice packs should be applied to the sides of the face where surgery was performed. The ice packs should be left for 30 minutes, followed by a 30 minute rest period. Repeat the 30 minute cycle for 24 hours only. After 24 hours, ice has no beneficial effect. If swelling or jaw stiffness has persisted for several days, there is no cause for alarm. This is a normal reaction to surgery. Thirty-six hours following surgery, the application of moist heat to the sides of the face is beneficial in reducing the size of the swelling

#### ***Pain***

Pain or discomfort following surgery is normal. These symptoms should subside more and more every day. If pain persists, it may require attention and you should call the office.

#### ***Diet***

You may eat anything soft by chewing away from the surgical sites. High calorie, high protein intake is very important. Ensure nutritional shakes can be taken to supplement your diet. Nourishment should be taken regularly. Try not to miss a single meal. You will feel better, have more strength, less discomfort and heal faster if you continue to eat. Your food intake will be limited for the first few days. You should compensate for this by increasing your fluid intake. At least 5-6 glasses of liquid should be taken daily. Drink from a glass. Never use a straw, as the sucking motion can cause more bleeding.

*Caution: If you suddenly sit up or stand from a lying position you may become dizzy. If you are lying down following surgery, make sure you sit for one minute before standing.*

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### ***Keep the mouth clean***

Symptoms of pain at the surgical site and even pain to the ear may occur 2-3 days following surgery. This is normal. Pain should however not increase with time. Call the office if this occurs. You can brush your teeth the night of surgery but please remember to rinse gently. The day after surgery you should begin rinsing at least 5-6 times a day especially after eating with a cup of warm water mixed with a teaspoon of salt. Also use the Andolex C oral rinse as prescribed. Avoid touching the wound with your fingers as this may cause an infection.

### ***Discoloration***

In some cases, discoloration of the skin follows swelling. The development of black, blue, green, or yellow discoloration is due to blood spreading beneath the tissues. This is a normal post-operative occurrence, which may occur 2-3 days post-operatively. Moist heat applied to the area may speed up the removal of the discoloration.

### ***Antibiotics***

If you have been placed on antibiotics, take the tablets or liquid as directed. Antibiotics will be given to help prevent infection. Discontinue antibiotic use in the event of a rash or other unfavorable reaction. Call the office if you have any questions.

### ***Nausea and Vomiting***

In the event of nausea and/or vomiting following surgery under general anaesthesia, do not take anything by mouth for at least an hour including the prescribed medicine. You should then sip on coke, tea or ginger ale. You should sip slowly over a fifteen-minute period. When the nausea subsides you can begin taking solid foods and the prescribed medicine. Should the nausea or vomiting persist, call Dr White.

### ***Possible post-operative symptoms***

If numbness of the lip, chin, or tongue occurs there is no cause for alarm. As stated before surgery, this is usually temporary in nature. You should be aware that if your lip or tongue is numb, you could bite it and not feel the sensation. So be careful. Should you have any questions, please call the office for an appointment.

**Slight elevation of temperature** immediately following surgery is not uncommon. If the temperature persists, notify the office.

You should be **careful going from the lying down position to standing**. You were not able to eat or drink prior to surgery. It was also difficult to take fluids. Taking pain medications can make you dizzy. You could get light headed when you stand up suddenly. Before standing up, you should sit for one minute then get up.

If the corners of your mouth are stretched, they may dry out and crack. Your lips should be kept moist with an ointment such as vaseline.

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**Stiffness (Trismus)** of the jaw muscles may cause difficulty in opening your mouth for a few days following surgery. This is a normal post-operative event which will resolve in time. Additional physiotherapy treatment will assist to shorten this period.

**Sutures** are placed the area of surgery to minimize post-operative bleeding and to help healing. Sometimes they become dislodged, this is no cause for alarm. Just remove the suture from your mouth and discard it. The dental implant is sealed with a cover screw and is absolutely safe from any harm. In the mean time, the area should be kept clean especially after meals with salt water rinses. Should you be concerned, you are more than welcome to make an appointment with us.

**Smoking** places you at risk of developing an infection and implant failure. You are advised not to smoke for at least 72 hours after the placement of your implant. Smoking affects your bodies' ability to generate new bone around the implant. The best chances of implant survival would be to completely stop the smoking habit.

Your case is individual, no two mouths are alike. Do not accept well intended advice from friends. Discuss your problem with the persons best able to effectively help you: Dr. White or your family dentist.

Brushing your teeth is advised— just be gentle at the surgical sites.

Try not to exercise for the first three post-operative days. Your heart rate increases during exercise and can cause new bleeding. Also be aware that your normal nourishment intake is reduced. Exercise may weaken you. If you get light headed, stop exercising.