



PERIODONTAL SURGERY POSTOPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AND CALL OUR OFFICE WITH ANY QUESTIONS PRIOR TO SURGERY

Sometimes the after-effects of periodontal surgery are quite minimal, so not all of these instructions may apply. Common sense will often dictate what you should do. However, when in doubt, follow these guidelines or call our office for clarification. **Our phone number is (541) 654-5482.**

EXERCISE CARE: Do NOT pull your lip out or disturb the area in any way.

ACTIVITY LEVEL: Limit activity the day of surgery. Stay inside and don't do anything. Keep head elevated by relaxing in a chair or using extra pillows while in bed or on the couch. Light activity (50% of normal effort) is okay the following day after surgery for the first week. Avoid activities that change your blood pressure significantly like repetitively bending over and standing up. Moderate activity (80% of normal effort) is okay for the second week. Do not engage in any strenuous activities for 2 weeks. Do not swim for 2 weeks. Your body should spend most of its energy healing.

DIET: Confine the first week's intake to liquids or pureed foods (soups, puddings, yogurt, milk shakes, etc.). Avoid extremely hot foods. Do not use a **straw** until you are advised that it is okay. Gradually progress to solid soft nourishing foods the following week. Avoid chewing anything at the surgery site. Avoid foods like nuts, sunflower seeds, popcorn, etc., which may get lodged in the surgery areas. It is important not to skip meals! If you take nourishment regularly you will feel better, gain strength, have less discomfort and heal faster. If you are a diabetic, maintain your normal eating habits or follow instructions given by your doctor.

CLEANING FOR THE FIRST TWO WEEKS FOLLOWING SURGERY:

Keeping your mouth clean after surgery is essential.

- **MOUTH RINSES:** Please do not use commercial mouth rinses. You may be given a bottle of Chlorhexidine (Peridex©) prescription mouth rinse and advised to either rinse gently with it or dab sparingly on the treated teeth with a cotton swab dipped in it up to four times a day. Most of the time you will not be given Chlorhexidine mouth rinse, in which case please use a mixture of 1/4 teaspoon of salt dissolved in an 8 ounce glass of warm water and gently rinse with portions of the solution, taking five minutes to use the entire glassful. Repeat as often as you like, but at least twice daily. This will help with extra comfort and healing.
- **BRUSHING:** You may brush the areas in your mouth that were not affected by the surgical procedure. Please do not brush the surgical site until after your two week post-operative visit unless specifically advised to do so by Dr. Dow.

SMOKING/CHEWING: The use of tobacco products greatly reduces the success of your recovery.

SIDE EFFECTS

Bleeding: Intermittent bleeding or oozing overnight is normal. Bleeding should never be severe. Bleeding may be controlled by placing fresh gauze over the area and applying gentle pressure for 30-45 minutes. If bleeding persists or becomes heavy you may substitute a tea bag (soaked in very hot water, squeezed damp-dry and wrapped in moist gauze) for 20 or 30 minutes. If bleeding remains uncontrolled, please call our office.

Swelling: Swelling is often associated with periodontal surgery. It can be minimized by wrapping a cold pack, ice bag or bag of frozen peas in a towel and applying firmly to the cheek adjacent to the surgical area. This should be applied for 20 minutes on and 20 minutes off during the first **24** hours after surgery. If you have been prescribed medicine for the control of swelling, be sure to take it as directed. ***If you can take Ibuprofen; take 600 mg every 6 hours for 3-4 days, even if you do not believe it is necessary.**

Pain: Our patients report moderate discomfort following the periodontal surgery. The discomfort on the roof of your mouth is usually most intense on days 4-8. Taking Ibuprofen as directed above is the best way to control pain. You will usually have a prescription for pain medication that can be taken in addition to the Ibuprofen. If you take the first pill before the anesthetic has worn off, you should be able to manage any discomfort better. Some patients find that stronger pain medicine causes nausea, but if you precede each pain pill with a small amount of food, chances for nausea will be reduced. The effects of pain medications vary widely among individuals. Some patients may even require two of the pain pills at one time. If you find you are taking large amounts of pain medicine at frequent intervals, please call our office. If you anticipate needing more prescription medication for the weekend, you must call for a refill during weekday business hours.

Nausea: Nausea is not uncommon after surgery. Sometimes pain medications are the cause. Nausea can be reduced by preceding each pain pill with a small amount of soft food, and taking the pill with a large volume of water. Try to keep taking clear fluids and minimize dosing of pain medications, but call us if you do not feel better. Classic Coca Cola may help with nausea.

It is our desire that your recovery be as smooth and pleasant as possible. Following these instructions will assist you, but if you have questions about your progress, please call our office. Calling during office hours will afford a faster response to your question or concern. If you are having an after-hours emergency please call **Dr. Dow's cell phone at (541) 937-5417**. Telephone calls for narcotic (pain killer) prescription renewals are ONLY accepted during the office hours if 7a-4p.

Your Next visit:

Although it varies, most patients are seen for a postoperative visit about 2 weeks following completion of periodontal surgery. This is a short appointment with the surgical assistant where healing is observed, questions are answered, sutures are usually removed, and oral hygiene instructions are given.

Patients are Results

Patients are usually scheduled 4-6 weeks following the procedure to clean the teeth and to re-evaluate the health of your gums following treatment.