



Instructions for Care of Minor Oral Surgery

Proper care of your child's mouth after minor oral surgery can aid in healing and reduce the possibility of complications. Minor bleeding or oozing for a few hours and slight swelling are expected and should not be a cause for alarm. Please follow these guidelines for postoperative care and any other instructions that Dr. Washburn has added.

Local Anesthesia: Your child's mouth, lip, and cheek may be numb (or "Sleepy") for several hours. Please make sure that (s)he does not bite the lip or tongue, or scratch the cheek. This could cause damage that the child cannot feel until the anesthesia wears off.

Hemorrhage control: Have your child bite (not chew) on the gauze (s)he was given for at least 1-2 hours. There may be continued slight oozing overnight. This slight bleeding can mix with saliva and get onto your child's pillow, where it may look as though a lot of bleeding has occurred. You may wish to put a towel or old pillowcase on your child's pillow tonight. Do not allow your child to spit, rinse the mouth, or use a straw for the next 24 hours. If bleeding persists, please call us.

Swelling Control: For most extractions of primary (baby) teeth, swelling will be minimal. However, swelling can be further minimized by applying ice packs intermittently for 10 minutes on, 10 minutes off, for 2-4 hours. Sometimes a bruise may appear in the area of the surgery. This is usually a result of harmless bleeding under the skin.

Control of Discomfort: Most children do not require medication following extraction of primary teeth. Some discomfort may occur, however. You may give your child whatever medication (s)he normally takes for headache or fever. Only in rare instances is a prescription pain medication necessary. Call us if your child has more than mild discomfort.

Diet: Most children can continue their normal diets following removal of primary teeth. If necessary, your child's dentist may recommend a liquid or soft diet for one or more meals after the procedures. Do not allow your child to drink through a straw for the next 24 hours.

Oral Hygiene: You or your child should begin routine tooth brushing tonight, taking care not to injure the site of surgery. After 24 hours, your child may rinse gently with warm salt water after meals and at bedtime, if desired.