



GREENE STREET DENTAL
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Tooth Extraction Post-Operative Instructions

During the first 24 hours:

It is important that a blood clot forms on the extraction site to stop bleeding, reduce pain, and speed healing. To protect the clot and avoid the pain of dry socket:

- Bite on a gauze pad firmly for 30-45 minutes. Blood and saliva mix in the mouth and make it look like there is more bleeding than there really is. Some oozing is normal; however, after 1 hour, repeat with a clean gauze pad if oozing is profuse.
- Do not smoke. Avoid tobacco for at least 72 hours because it slows healing.
- Do not rinse your mouth vigorously, or drink through a straw for 24 hours. These activities will disturb the healing blood clot.
- Do not drink hot, carbonated, or alcoholic drinks, and avoid hot or spicy foods.
- Limit yourself to calm activities and elevate your head with pillows when you lie down to reduce bleeding.

To control discomfort, take pain medication before the anesthetic has worn off or as recommended.

To keep swelling to a minimum, use an ice bag over the area, 20 minutes on and 20 minutes off.

When the numbness has worn off completely, drink lots of fluids and eat only soft nutritious foods, chewing on the opposite side.

After the first 24 hours:

Begin to eat normally as soon as it's comfortable.

Resume brushing and flossing, but clean gently around the site for about a week.

If antibiotics were prescribed, continue to take them for the indicated length of time, even if all symptoms and signs of infection are gone.

Reduce soreness or swelling by applying moist heat. Swelling usually starts to go down after 48 hours.

Further reduce swelling by rinsing your mouth very gently with warm salt water. Use about one teaspoon of salt per glass of warm water. Rinse two to three times a day for the week following the extraction.

When to call us:

It is normal to experience some discomfort for several days after a tooth extraction, but call us right away if you have: heavy or increased bleeding, pain or swelling that increases or continues beyond two or three days or a reaction to the medication.