

Post-Operative Instructions for Pathology & Biopsy

ACTIVITY:

- Rest, as much as possible for the next 24 hours. Avoid lying flat for the remainder of the day.
- Sleep with your head elevated for the next 4 days.
- Avoid strenuous activity for the next 4 days.
- If you had IV sedation, DO NOT drive, operate heavy equipment, use power tools, or sign legal documents for the next 24 hours.
- A follow-up appointment will be made approximately 2 weeks after your surgery to review the pathology results with you.

BLEEDING:

- Gauze packs are in place over the surgical sites to help stop the bleeding.
- After 45 minutes remove the gauze, look at the surgical site. If the sites are still bleeding use new gauze provided and continue holding pressure. Be sure to place the gauze over the surgical site. Check the bleeding from the site(s) every hour, if you are no longer bleeding you do not have to insert more gauze.
- Some oozing is normal for the first 24 hours. You should expect to see some bloody saliva over the next several days.
- If the biopsy site is outside the mouth you will hold manual pressure to the site with the gauze provided. The above bullets still apply as well.

STITCHES:

- Stitches may be in place. They will eventually come out on their own within 7 to 14 days. If the stitches are non-dissolving we will let you and your escort know and schedule a follow-up appointment to remove them.
- If the stitches become bothersome call our office, do not pick or pull at them.

SWELLING:

- You can expect swelling for the next 3 to 4 days. The swelling will be the worst on days 2 and 3 and should start to gradually get better.
- You should keep an ice pack on the side of the face as much as you can for the next 24 hours. Place it on one side for 30 minutes and then switch to the other side. Do not ice while sleeping.
- After 36 hours, switch to moist heat.
- If you have dentures or a prosthesis in place, do not remove it, we placed it after surgery to help reduce the swelling.

PAIN:

- It is normal for pain to get worse over the next couple of days. Most discomfort is seen on days 2 and 3.
- Start taking the Ibuprofen/Acetaminophen every 6 hours for the next 3 to 4 days. This will help to decrease pain as well as swelling.
- For more severe pain, add the narcotic pain medicine in between doses of the Ibuprofen/Acetaminophen.
- Do not take the Ibuprofen/Acetaminophen and the narcotic pain medicine at the same time because this will likely make you sick. You should alternate the narcotic and Ibuprofen/Acetaminophen every 3 hours. Always take your medication with food; taking pain medication on an empty stomach can make you sick.
- Do not drive or operate machinery while taking narcotic pain medication.

DIET:

- Eat cold & soft foods the day of surgery (pudding, milkshakes, applesauce, yogurt, etc)
- Drink as much clear fluids and water as possible.
- Maintain a soft diet for the next several days. Luke warm soup, mashed potatoes, yogurt, pudding, etc. Keep your calorie intake up to promote healing. Boost, Ensure or Carnation Instant Breakfast are nutritious and will help keep your energy up.
- Avoid hot foods or liquids for the first 24 hours. This may aggravate bleeding and can burn you while your mouth is numb.
- Avoid foods like nuts, seeds, popcorn and hard crunchy foods for the first week.
- Do not smoke.
- Do not consume alcoholic beverages for 24 hours following surgery or while taking pain medication.

ORAL HYGIENE:

- Try not to disturb the surgical area today. Do not rinse your mouth or brush your teeth today.
- Starting tomorrow, gently rinse with the antibacterial mouth rinse 3 to 4 times a day for the next week.
- Starting tomorrow, gently brush teeth being careful in the surgical area, unless the doctor has instructed otherwise.
- Do not vigorously rinse, swish, or spit for the next week.
- If the biopsy site is outside the mouth, you will still wait until tomorrow to gently cleanse the surgical site.

IF AN ANTIBIOTIC MEDICATION WAS PRESCRIBED MAKE SURE TO TAKE IT AS DIRECTED UNTIL COMPLETED.

If you have questions or concerns please call our office: 775.237.2038