

Home Care Instructions Following Extraction of Teeth

PAIN is usually is not a problem following extraction of teeth in children. If your child complains of any discomfort, you may give him/her Tylenol in doses as recommended on the label every 4 hours as needed. **DO NOT GIVE ASPIRIN** as this causes prolonged bleeding.

BLEEDING should be minimal by the time your child leaves the office. Your child should bite on the the gauze pack for at least 30 minutes to 1 hour after the extraction. Some oozing is to be expected, but if oozing or bleeding persists after several hours, place a tea bag or clean gauze square over the surgical area and have the child bite down firmly for 1 hour. Notify the office if bleeding persists.

NUMBNESS will last for approximately 1 to 2 hours after the procedure. Watch your child and caution him/her not to bite the numb lip, cheek, and/or tongue as considerable trauma and swelling may result.

SWELLING may or may not develop after extractions. It usually reaches its peak in 24 hours and then begins to resolve. An ice bag should be place over the affected area for the first 24 hours (½ hour on, then ½ hour off, then repeat as tolerated) to help reduce the amount of swelling.

DIET should consist of only soft and/or liquid foods for the first 24 hours. Fluids are especially important the first day to prevent dehydration. After the first 24-48 hours, your child may eat whatever is comfortable to him/her.

GOOD ORAL HYGIENE promotes more rapid healing. Starting the day after surgery, have your child rinse his/her mouth with warm salt water (1 tsp. salt in 8 ounce glass of water). Your dentist may give you an irrigating syringe to aid if necessary. Brush your child's teeth with a soft toothbrush and toothpaste. For the first few days, the teeth in the surgical area may be cleaned with a Q-tip or gauze.

POST-OPERATIVE CHECK: Return to the office for a post-operative check if recommended.

QUESTIONS: Please contact the office at 404.351.7336 if you have any questions.

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS: _____

