

Surgical Instructions

MAURICE R. CROWLEY, D.M.D.

812-945-2760

Preoperative Instructions for Patients Undergoing General or Intravenous Sedation

1. You may not have anything to eat or drink (including water) for eight (8) hours prior to the appointment.
2. A responsible adult must accompany the patient to the office, remain in the office during the procedure, and drive the patient home.
3. The patient should not drive a vehicle or operate any machinery for 24 hours following the anesthesia experience or the taking of narcotic pain medications.
4. Please wear loose fitting clothing with sleeves which can be rolled up past the elbow, and low-heeled shoes. Contact lenses, jewelry, and dentures must be removed at the time of surgery.

Post-Operative Care Following Oral Surgery

1. IMMEDIATELY AFTER SURGERY, keep GAUZE PADS OVER AREA with BITING PRESSURE changing every 30 minutes until bleeding stops.
2. SOME OOZING OF BLOOD may occur on the FIRST AND SECOND DAYS FOLLOWING THE PROCEDURE. This type of bleeding may be controlled by first wiping off any old clots and then placing sterile pads over the area and biting firmly for 1/2 hour at a time. If bleeding persists, place a moist tea bag over the area and bite down hard for 45 minutes.
3. Do not spit, drink through a straw, or rinse until the day after surgery as this may cause bleeding.
4. TO MINIMIZE PROBLEMS, NO SMOKING, CHEWING OR DIPPING OF TOBACCO FOR ONE WEEK FOLLOWING SURGERY.
5. SWELLING AROUND THE MOUTH, CHEEKS, EYES, AND NECK MAY FOLLOW SOME SURGICAL PROCEDURES. This is the body's normal reaction and the swelling usually subsides in several days. TO REDUCE ORDINARY POST-OPERATIVE SWELLING, APPLY AN ICE BAG (15 MINUTES ON AND 15 MINUTES OFF) FOR THE FIRST 24 HOURS FOLLOWING THE PROCEDURE. The head should also be elevated for the first couple of postoperative days.
6. After a general anesthetic, the patient SHOULD FIRST HAVE SWEET, CLEAR BEVERAGES (Sprite, Ginger Ale, 7-Up). After about six hours and if there is no nausea, they may begin a soft diet.
7. As necessary, take prescription pain medicine as instructed. As soon as possible, switch to ibuprofen, acetaminophen, or aspirin.
8. Some individuals experience nausea and vomiting following general anesthesia. If so, sip Sprite, Ginger Ale, or 7-Up. The Nausea usually subsides after several hours. If it does not, NOTIFY DR. CROWLEY.
9. THE DAY AFTER SURGERY, RINSE MOUTH WITH 1/2 TEASPOON OF SALT to a full glass of WARM WATER. Rinse after each meal and before retiring at night. DO NOT RINSE IF THERE IS SIGNIFICANT BLEEDING FROM THE SURGICAL AREA.
10. ORAL HYGIENE: Remove all white film from the gums by means of cotton swab or piece of gauze. Brush your teeth after 24 hours, AVOIDING OPERATIVE SITE.
11. Nourishment is essential for healing. Drink plenty of liquids (soups or juices) and take more solid foods as you are able, avoiding chewing in the area of the operation.
12. IN SOME CASES DISCOLORATION OF THE SKIN FOLLOWS SWELLING. The purplish color may spread from the skin around the mouth and cheeks to the skin of the neck. The purplish color fades into greenish yellow, then yellow and back to normal. This discoloration is the result of blood elements spreading beneath the tissue layers. This is a perfectly normal post-operative event, especially in individuals who bruise easily.

13. A BLACK AND BLUE MARK and soreness occasionally develops on the area of THE ARM at the site of intravenous injection. This is to be expected and will disappear. If there is pain, redness, or a knot in the arm, contact Dr. Crowley.
14. To minimize stiffness and to stimulate circulation, exercise jaws periodically by opening and closing
15. Numbness of the lip, chin, tongue, gums or teeth occasionally follows oral surgery. This is usually temporary and no cause for alarm.
16. BONY EDGES: After teeth are extracted, the patient may feel hard projections in the mouth and think they are roots. This is usually the hard, bony partition which surrounds the roots of the teeth. These generally work themselves out. If not, return to this office for simple removal.
17. INFREQUENTLY, JAW PAIN, EARACHE, AND BAD TASTE IN MOUTH may develop anywhere from two days to twelve days following extractions. This is the result of the blood clot decomposing or being lost, therefore, leaving the raw bony walls of the socket exposed. Return to this office for simple treatment. (Insertion of Medicated Dressing).
18. SUTURES (STITCHES) may have placed in the area of surgery in order to MINIMIZE POST-OPERATIVE BLEEDING AND TO FACILITATE HEALING. We usually use dissolving sutures that require no follow up visit. If, for some reason, we use a suture that needs to be removed, we will make you an appointment.

Please feel free to notify this office of any unusual occurrences or questions. Our telephone number is 812-945-2760.