



Bone Graft: Post-Operative Instructions

Day 1: Continue biting on the gauze for 30-60 minutes following your procedure. Do NOT spit, rinse, suck (using a straw), smoke, drink carbonated or alcoholic beverages for at least 24 hours. Passively empty your mouth when needed.

Day 2: You will most likely experience one or more of the following symptoms: Minor pain, swelling, bruising, limitation in opening or closing your mouth, pain in jaw or ear, sore throat. It is important to listen to your body and take it easy.

Oral hygiene: Brush gently. A gentle lukewarm saltwater rinse (or antimicrobial rinse, if prescribed) can be used to freshen your mouth. But again, do not rinse vigorously and just let the fluid passively empty.

Discomfort: Over the counter pain medication (Ibuprofen, Aleve, and Tylenol) may be taken as directed on the bottle to relieve discomfort and well as any prescribed pain medication.

Swelling: Apply cold compresses to affected area at 20-minute intervals for the first 24 hours to minimize swelling. Any swelling that occurs usually begins to diminish within 72 hours; call the office if there is no change.

Bleeding: Some oozing of blood is normal for the first 12-24 hours. Put a hand towel on your pillow as some drooling can occur when you are numb. Call the office if the bleeding does not subside.

Diet: Drink plenty of fluids.
Avoid carbonated and alcoholic beverages.
A soft diet will be easiest: yogurt, milkshakes, soups, fish, pasta, etc.
Nothing too spicy is recommended.
It is normal to have a little tenderness while chewing and difficulty opening wide.

Stitches: If you have received sutures, avoid playing with them. A fifteen-minute appointment will be needed to remove the sutures in 14 days.

Prescriptions: If you have been prescribed antibiotics, take them as directed **until they are all gone**, even if symptoms dissipate. Some antibiotics can interfere with the effectiveness of birth control pills or other medications. If pain medication or a mouth rinse is prescribed take as directed.

In case of any unusual disturbances, questions or any post-surgical problems, please call the office at 517-748-9440.