

Laser Post-Op instructions

1. Do not be alarmed with any color changes or appearance of gum tissue following laser therapy. Gum tissue can turn gray, yellow, red, blue, purple, and “stringy” and reflects a normal response to laser treatments.
2. Do not apply excessive tongue or cheek pressure to the treated area.
3. Do not be alarmed if one of the following occurs: Light bleeding, slight swelling, some soreness, and tenderness or tooth sensitivity, medicinal taste from Peridex or Perioguard.
4. Swelling may possibly occur. To keep this at a minimum, gently place an ice pack on the outside of the face for 20 minutes each hour until you retire for sleep that night. Do not continue using the ice bag beyond the day of the periodontal surgery.
5. Some oozing of blood may occur and will appear to be greatly exaggerated when it dissolves in saliva. Determine the side of oozing and place pressure on this area. If you cannot locate the origin of the bleeding, rinse your mouth gently with iced water and apply a wet teabag to the general area.
6. Please call the office so that we may render further treatment if any of the following occurs: a prolonged or severe pain, prolonged or excessive bleeding, considerably elevated or persistent temperature (Fever) sores on the roof of your mouth (Blisters).
7. If medication has been prescribed, please take exactly as directed. Antibiotic pills are prescribed and the entire bottle or prescription should be taken for the stated number of days or weeks. If you are not allergic to Motrin –Generic Ibuprofen- (eg. Advil, Nuprin), we will most likely prescribe it primarily to minimize tissue swelling, and local inflammation that is a natural side effect of minor surgery. Ibuprofen is also good to reduce post-operative pain and sensitivity. Ibuprofen is non-narcotic and does not affect your ability to drive. Never place aspirin directly on the tissue of a painful area.
8. Reduce physical activity for several hours following the surgery to maximize healing.
9. Try to keep your mouth as clean as possible in order to help the healing process. Only brush and floss the untreated area of your mouth. Do not brush or floss the treated area for 7-10 days or as directed by your doctor.
10. You may spit and gently rinse your mouth the day of treatment. Rinse your mouth gently 3 times a day with Peridex or Perioguard. In between Peridex/Perioguard rinses, rinse your mouth gently 3 times a day with warm salt water (1/2 teaspoon of salt dissolved in an 8oz. glass of warm water). For the next several days rinse with both Peridex/Perioguard and salt water as previously mentioned but with vigor.
11. You will be on a liquid diet for 3 days, then a diet of “mushy”/soft foods for 4 days, and then a diet of smart food choices for the remainder of the month. It is very important to maintain a good food and fluid intake. Try to eat soft but nutritious food such as eggs, yogurt, cottage cheese, malts, ice cream, etc., until you can comfortably return to a normal diet.
12. Avoid spicy or excessively hot foods during the initial 3 day liquid diet period.
13. When eating do not chew on the side of your mouth which has been treated.
14. Do not be alarmed that beginning with just 2 weeks after therapy and extending as long as 1 year or more, the teeth may become sore and tender as the bone and ligaments around the teeth regenerate and become more firm. This is a sign of healing, but also indicates the presence of a bite imbalance that may need to be adjusted.
15. “Spaces” between your teeth can result from reduction of inflammation, swelling, and the removal of diseased tissue after the treatment. These spaces usually fill in over time, and again, bite adjustment is critical to making sure the teeth and the “papilla” is not traumatized and can regrow.