



## Post-Operative Guide: Extractions with or without Bone Grafting

### Section 1: The first 24 hours

#### What to expect

**Pain:** The amount of pain you feel after the extraction has a lot to do with the difficulty of the extraction itself and the number of teeth you had extracted. The harder the tooth was to remove or the greater the number of teeth removed, the more pain you are likely to feel afterwards. If the pain increases significantly a few days (3 to 7 days) after the extraction, please call for instructions.

**Bleeding:** You will bleed in the first 24 hours after surgery. This is totally normal. Keep in mind that when blood mixes with saliva it may appear as if you are bleeding more than you are. Don't sweat it if you're still bleeding a little bit when you go to bed, just put a towel over your pillow and get some shut eye.

**Swelling:** You are probably going to experience some degree of swelling after surgery. The amount of swelling you have will depend on the difficulty of the extraction, the number of teeth extracted, and the size of the bone graft placed. The swelling is usually greatest in the first 4 days and should start to decrease by 7 to 10 days. If the swelling increases significantly a few days (3 to 7 days) after the extraction please call for instructions.

**Sutures:** If sutures were placed directly after surgery, you might feel them with your tongue. Do your best to leave the little guys alone. Messing with them is ultimately going to screw with the healing of the site. The time it takes your sutures to dissolve has everything to do with the type of suture used and how your body reacts to them. The sutures may start to come out anywhere from two days to two weeks after surgery. If non-dissolving sutures were used, our office will need to remove them anywhere from two to six weeks after the day of your surgery.

#### Strict No-Can-Do's

- (1) Do not rinse with anything for the first day after surgery.
- (2) Do not spit, suck through a straw, or touch the surgical site (don't even pull your cheek or lip to look at it!) for the first 7 days after surgery.
- (3) Do not rub or apply excess pressure to your face to massage the area if bone grafting was done. The bone needs to heal without ANY outside pressure for 3 months.
- (4) Do not smoke or drink alcohol for the first 3 days after surgery.



- (5) Do not exercise, mow the lawn, vacuum the house, shovel snow, or play sports for the first 5 days after surgery. These activities tend to increase the risk of bleeding. For the first 24 hours, you should be a couch potato!
- (6) Do not eat or drink hot foods/beverages (warm is ok) for the first 7 days after surgery.
- (7) Do not consume spicy foods, chips, popcorn, carbonated drinks, or acidic juices (Orange, Grapefruit, etc.) for the 14 days after surgery.

### Things you should do

**Pressure:** Bite down gently, but firmly, on the gauze packs that have been placed over the extraction site, making sure they stay in place – no talking! Do not change them for the first hour unless the bleeding is not controlled. The packs may be gently removed after one hour. If active bleeding persists, place enough new gauze to obtain pressure over the surgical site for another 30 minutes. The gauze may then be changed as necessary (typically every 30 to 45 minutes). It is best to moisten the gauze with tap water and loosely fluff for more comfortable positioning.

**Cold Packs:** As you leave the office and when you arrive home, use a cold pack on your face next to the extraction site to keep down the swelling. Keep the cold pack on for 20 minutes, then off for 20 minutes. You can repeat this cycle for the first 36 hours.

**Medications:** Take all the medication given or prescribed as directed. You may have started some of them just before the surgery. Take all the medications with food unless otherwise stated.

**Oral Hygiene:** Do not rinse your mouth for the first 24 hours. Starting the day AFTER surgery, you may start to brush and floss your teeth. Be extremely careful around the area where surgery was performed. If you are uncomfortable brushing the surgical site then just don't do it! The area will be just fine for the next 2 weeks. Do NOT use the Water-pik or water-flossing devices, they are traumatic to the healing process. Rinsing with the prescription mouthwash, Listerine or warm salt water will help to clean the treated area. To make the salt water rinse; mix one teaspoon of salt with half a glass of warm (NOT hot) water. CAUTION: do NOT rinse vigorously. Instead, place the mouthwash in your mouth and gently rock your head from side to side, bathing the surgical site in the mouth rinse.

**Diet:** Most patients find it difficult to sit down and eat a normal meal after dental surgery. It's not difficult to see why - chewing, chomping, smacking and sucking can aggravate the treated area resulting in pain. It could also re-open the surgical site which could result in an infection and serious healing complications. We suggest you eat soft foods, take smaller bites and chew only in the areas where there is no dressing or sutures. Avoid highly seasoned foods and sharp foods such as nuts, popcorn and chips. It's important to maintain a nutritious diet while you



heal. The patient who maintains a healthy diet of soft foods generally feels better, has less discomfort and heals faster.

### **Diet Suggestions for the first 24 hours:**

*\*(All food must be consumed at a cool or cold temperature. Nothing warm in the 1<sup>st</sup> 24hrs!)*

#### Beverages:

- Fruit smoothies, Protein shakes, Iced tea, Milk, Milk shakes (no straws!), Nutritional Supplement drink (e.g. boost, muscle milk, ensure), Water

#### Main Courses:

- Cold pasta, Cold Soup, Cold Mashed Potatoes

#### Desserts:

- Applesauce, Cold pudding, Jell-O, Mousse, Yogurt

## **Section 2: Days 2-14**

### **What to expect**

**Pain:** Quite often the second day is as bad if not worse than the first. Hang in there, you're going to get through this. Again, the amount of pain is directly associated with the difficulty of the extraction and the number of teeth involved. Pain usually is the worst for the first 3 days and should be gone by 10 to 14 days. If the pain and/or swelling increase significantly a few days (3 to 7 days) after the extraction, please call for instructions.

**Bleeding:** You may still have a little bit of bleed from the surgical site. This should mainly be in the form of oozing and the appearance should be pink from mixture with your saliva. If you still have heavy bleeding by the end of day 2 give the office a call. Minor bleeding may be evident for the first few days - it will be evident just after you rinse.

**Swelling:** You may experience additional swelling from what you saw in the first 24 hours. The swelling may continue to get worse the second day. This should level off on day 3 and slowly begin to decrease by day 4 or 5. Again, the amount of swelling will be directly associated with the difficulty of the extraction and the number of teeth extracted. The swelling is usually greatest in the first 5 days and should start to decrease by 7 to 10 days. If the swelling increases significantly a few days (3 to 7 days) after surgery, please call for instructions.

**Bruising:** The development of a black, blue-green or yellow discoloration is the result of blood spreading under the tissues. It's quite normal for a bruise to form in the first 2-3 days after surgery. The size and length of time you have the bruise will be directly related to the size and complexity of the procedure. Most bruises go away in 7 days; however, some may persist for up to 14 days after surgery.



### Things you should do

**Warm Packs:** After the first 24 to 36 hours the cold packs can be switched to warm packs, although this is not required. Gentle pressure is all you need. Make sure it's not hot!

**Diet:** Your diet after the first 24 hours will be a little different from the first 24 hours. The rule of thumb is as follows: If you can pinch through it easily, you're allowed to eat it! We suggest you continue eat these soft foods, take smaller bites and chew only in the areas where there is no dressing or sutures

### Diet Suggestions for Days 2-14:

*\*(In addition to the list for the first 24hrs, you can also enjoy the following suggestions. Any of your options for day 2-14 can be consumed either warm or cold – NEVER HOT!)*

#### Beverages:

- Apple Cider, Coffee, Tea – Green, Black, or Herbal

#### Breakfast:

- Scrambled eggs, Omelets, Oatmeal, French Toast, Pancakes, Waffles, Soft Cereals

#### Lunch and Dinner:

- Soups, Pasta, Fish fillets (steamed or baked), Frittata, Stews, Crock-pot meals, Slow cooked meats, Slow cooked veggies, Mac and Cheese, Meatloaf

## Section 3: Day 15 and on

### What to expect

**Pain and Swelling:** You should no longer be experiencing major pain into the third week of healing. If you feel an increase in pain or swelling please give the office a call to discuss your symptoms.

**Sutures:** If resorbable sutures were used they will probably be dissolved by now. If non-resorbable sutures were used they will likely be removed at your two-week post-operative appointment (Sometimes we leave them in longer). If you feel a suture might still be present after the sutures were supposed to be removed, please call the office to have it evaluated.

**Socket Healing:** The time it takes for the soft tissue to grow over the socket can vary from 2 weeks to 3 months. The speed of the soft tissue coverage is related to the size of the tooth extracted and the health of the patient. Your back teeth take longer to close than your front teeth and healthy patients close faster than unhealthy patients.



### **Things to avoid**

Continue to avoid using the water-pik close to the surgical site for the first month after surgery. Continue to avoid rubbing or applying excess pressure to your face to massage the area if bone grafting was done. The bone needs to heal without ANY outside pressure for 3 months.

### **Things you should do**

By the second week you should be feeling close to your old self (hopefully better!). Discontinue using the prescription oral rinse. Continue to take caution brushing and flossing around the surgical site, but don't be afraid to make sure things are clean back there!

### **Diet**

If your extraction was performed without bone grafting you are free to eat anything you want! However, it's always a good idea to continue to take smaller bites and chew only on the opposite side of where your surgery performed. If surgery was performed on both sides, make sure to continue following the soft food diet recommendations listed for Days 2-14 after surgery. Continue this diet until your 3 to 4-month healing evaluation appointment with our office.

## **Section 4: What's Next?**

### **What Happens If You Don't replace the tooth?**

Except for your wisdom teeth and in special circumstances your second molars, we recommend replacing ANY tooth that is missing. The following are a few of the negative effects that result from missing a tooth:

- (1) Decreased chewing capacity as well as decreased nutritional intake
- (2) Increased Force on Remaining Teeth and Increased Risk of Losing Additional Teeth
- (3) Shifting, Drifting and Crowding of Remaining Teeth
- (4) Increased Risk of Periodontal Disease and Mobility of Remaining Teeth
- (5) Lowered Self Esteem and Appearance of Early Aging
- (6) Affected Speech – You may end up with a whistle or a lisp.

### **Replacing the missing tooth**

Most of the time a plan to replace the tooth is made before the tooth is extracted. In these instances, a bone graft is placed inside the socket, directly after the tooth has been removed. This bone graft is then allowed to mature for three months prior to evaluation for implant placement. At your three-month bone graft healing evaluation appointment, we will perform and 3D radiograph to assess the size and quality of the bone graft. Once the appropriate



implant size and shape have been selected, your next appointment at our office will be to place your dental implant!

**In the case of an emergency you can reach either Dr. John Thousand or Dr. Bob Thousand on their cell phones:**

**Dr. John Thousand Cell: 303-250-4091**

**Dr. Bob Thousand Cell: 904-669-9661**