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Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
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POST-OPERATIVE CARE FOLLOWING BIOPSY

1. **Immediately after surgery**, keep gauze over biopsy site for 40-45 minutes.
2. **Avoid forceful** blowing of the nose, sneezing, spitting or vigorous rinsing for 24 hours following surgery.
3. **Twenty-four hours after surgery**, rinse mouth with warm salt water (1/2 teaspoon of salt to a full glass of warm water) after meals and at bedtime.
4. **Swelling** in the area around the surgical site may occur. This is the body's normal reaction and usually subsides in several days. To reduce post-operative swelling apply ice to the area (10 minutes on and off). Do this only for the first 8 hours following surgery,
5. **Discoloration** of the skin may occur following the swelling. This is normal post-operative event, especially in those who bruise easily.
6. **Numbness** of the lip, chin and/or tongue occasionally follows oral surgery. This is usually temporary. Please be careful to not bite your lip, cheek or tongue. Should numbness occur, please advise the doctor of this at your post-operative visit.
7. **For Discomfort, take medication as prescribed. DO NOT TAKE Ibuprofen for 24 hours following surgery.**
8. **Nourishment** is essential for healing. Drink plenty of liquids and increase to more solid foods when able.
9. **Gentle brushing** with toothpaste can be done 12 hours after surgery.
10. **Sutures** may have been placed to minimize post-operative bleeding. They may dissolve on their own or be removed at your post-operative visit.
11. **The pathology report** will be reviewed with you on your post-operative visit.
12. **Do not use peroxide or mouthwash containing peroxide.**

Please notify office of any unusual occurrences or questions at 410-543-1675. If unable to get through to our answering service after hours, contact TidalHealth operator at 410-546-6400, and Dr. Ascher will be contacted.