VALLEY ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY
11811 Hinson Rd Ste 100 Little Rock, AR 501-444-2429
WISDOM TEETH Post-Operative Instructions

Activity - Should be kept to a minimum for 2 weeks. Anything that can raise your heart rate or blood pressure can cause you to bleed and swell; including bending over and lifting more than 15 pounds.

Discomfort and Swelling – This will peak 3-4 days after surgery.

- For the first 24 hours after surgery use ice on the outside of your face (20 minutes on followed by 20 minutes off). On day 2 switch from ice to a warm moist heat to help with muscle stiffness.
- Sleep with your head elevated above your heart using 2-3 pillows below your head and shoulders for the first 4 days after surgery

Bleeding – Is expected and gauze is provided for home use.

- You will leave the office with gauze placed over the bleeding areas in your mouth.
- Gauze should be replaced every 30 minutes until bleeding is dark red, minimal, or has stopped. Remove the gauze from your mouth to eat and go to sleep.
- To replace the gauze, fold 1-2 pieces into a small square and moisten it with water. Look inside your mouth to identify the socket/sockets that are actively oozing. Place the gauze right on top of the area that is oozing, then bite down to provide 30 minutes of continuous pressure on that area.
- If the area continues to ooze after 1 hour of continuous biting pressure, then wrap a new gauze around a moistened plain black tea bag and continuously bite on it for 1 hour.
- If you continue to bleed after trying a tea bag call our office: 501-444-2429

Prescriptions – Are provided to help with pain management and to prevent/resolve infection.

- Take prescriptions with food. A light meal or snack will help with gastrointestinal symptoms.
- If prescribed Antibiotics take as directed on bottle. If you have an adverse reaction to your antibiotic stop taking it and call our office.
- Narcotics (Hydrocodone or Oxycodone) may be prescribed to use for any breakthrough pain. These are last resort medications and should only be taken if non-narcotic medications are not adequately managing your pain. Remember, pain is an expected result of any surgery and prescribed medications are intended to bring the pain down to a manageable level rather than completely eliminating it.
- For adult patients who are able to take Acetaminophen/Tylenol and/or Motrin/Ibuprofen it should be taken as followed for the first 4 days following surgery:

1. Start by taking 1000 mg (2) extra strength Tylenol as soon as possible after surgery
2. 4 hours later take 800 mg Motrin/Ibuprofen

3. 4 hours later take 1000 mg (2) extra strength Tylenol

    a. If this regimen is not bringing the pain down to a tolerable level then you can begin to take the prescribed Narcotic in place of one of the extra strength Tylenol tablets. So you will take 500 mg (1) extra strength Tylenol and one of the narcotic tablets. Many narcotic tablets contain acetaminophen (Tylenol), so it is important that you reduce the amount of extra strength Tylenol you are taking.
4. Continue this schedule alternating Ibuprofen and Tylenol +/- narcotic every 4 hours until pain is tolerable

Sutures (Stitches) – May be placed in extraction sites. They will dissolve on their own in 7-10 days. It is normal for them to come out before 7 days, but if sutures remain after 2 weeks call the office for a follow-up appointment.

Brushing and Rinsing – DO NOT brush your teeth or rinse your mouth (with mouthwash) day of surgery. Do not use over the counter mouthwash for 2 weeks after surgery. To rinse your mouth rock your head gently from side to side to move it around DO NOT SWISH. Lean over a sink and let it fall out of your mouth.

- Resume normal care routine the day after surgery avoiding brushing on the extraction sites. Begin using a salt water rinse 3-4 times a day.
- If you were prescribed Chlorhexidine rinse start it 4 days after surgery.
- On day 4 start using saltwater rinse (2-3 times per day) in addition to Chlorhexidine

Diet – On the way home eat a liquid/smoothie meal to take first dose of pain medication, then once the numbness wears off begin soft diet for 3-5 days. This includes foods like milkshakes, yogurt, ice-cream, hummus, guacamole, cream soup and broth (spoons only, no straws)

- Avoid foods that are hot in temperature, sticky, spicy, chewy, crunchy, and have small nuts/seeds.
- On day 4 start to resume normal diet as tolerated, cutting food into smaller bites if needed.

Avoid – Spitting, drinking through a straw, forceful rinsing, and smoking for at least 2 weeks.

Irrigating Syringe – will be provided to help flush the areas. DO NOT start using until 7 days after surgery getting as close to the extraction sites as possible without poking your gums. You can use Chlorhexidine or saltwater in the syringe.