

South Hill Periodontics

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INSTRUCTIONS FOLLOWING IMPLANT SURGERY

Dental implants are cylindrical in form and are made of titanium. A dental implant replaces the missing root of a tooth. Your dentist will make the crown on top of the implant once it has integrated with the bone, usually in 3-6 months.

BLEEDING: Bleeding will be well controlled before you leave the office. However, there may be some bloodstains in your saliva for a few hours after surgery. Avoid forceful coughing, strenuous exercises, smoking, rinsing, and spitting on the day of surgery.

SWELLING: An icepack held over the outside of the face in increments of 10 minutes will help reduce swelling (10 minutes on, 10 minutes off.) If swelling appears to be increasing beyond the initial 72 hours, please call our office.

DIET: Liquids and soft foods are recommended for the first 2-3 days. A separate page of food selections will be provided.

SMOKING: Smoking should be eliminated during the first week after surgery.

ORAL HYGIENE: Do not brush the area of the surgical site for the first week following surgery. You should brush and floss all other teeth as you normally would. Start the prescription mouth rinse 24 hours after surgery.

PAIN: Some pain or discomfort is to be expected following any surgery. Start by taking 600mg of Ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil, etc.) along with 1000mg Acetaminophen (Tylenol) at the same time every 6 hours. You may have been prescribed pain pills that are to be used for “break through” pain if needed. Take medications with food. **Do not operate a vehicle or machinery while on prescription pain medication.**

SEDATION: If I.V. sedation was used for your surgery a responsible adult must take you home from the office. It is very important that you stay at home and rest on the day of surgery, as it takes several hours for the effects for the medications used for you I.V. sedation to wear off. **Do not drive a vehicle, operate machinery, use alcohol, or conduct business on the day of surgery.**

SUTURES: If any sutures are used in conjunction with your surgery they may come loose after a few days. This usually presents no problem. Any remaining sutures will be gently removed in our office 10 – 14 days following surgery.

ANTIBIOTICS: It is not always necessary to take antibiotics when you have surgery. However, if you have been given a prescription for an antibiotic, have it filled and then take all of the medication according to the instructions on the label. If you should develop diarrhea, nausea or a skin rash, stop the medication and call our office.

After the first 48 hours following surgery you should feel better each day. However, if you have any questions concerning your progress, please do not hesitate to call. We can be reached 24 hours a day by calling **(509) 536-7032**.