

Post-Operative Instructions: Sinus Lift

Pain

- If you are medically able, take ibuprofen (Advil®, Motrin®) and acetaminophen (Tylenol®). Start with 600mg ibuprofen and alternate with 500mg acetaminophen every three hours so that each medication is taken on its own 6-hour schedule.
- If you are given stronger pain medication, please take it as directed in addition to the ibuprofen and acetaminophen.
- Writing down the medication taken, dose, and time assists in limiting confusion.
- Start taking the first ibuprofen dose as soon as possible after the procedure.

Stitches

- Stitches will dissolve on their own unless otherwise stated.

Sinus Precautions

- No nose blowing for 2 weeks following the procedure. Blowing your nose can compromise the outcome of the procedure.
- If you must sneeze, do so with your mouth open. This will equalize the pressure between the mouth and the nose and reduce unintended airflow through the surgical site.

Bleeding

- Do not swish, spit, or use straws for 24 hours following your procedure.
- Bite down with firm pressure on the gauze that is placed over the surgical site. Change every 45 minutes as needed. As the gauze turns pink, it can be removed. Call our office if bleeding does not stop/is filling your mouth rapidly with blood after several gauze changes.
- Remove gauze when eating/drinking and replace as needed if bleeding still occurs at the surgical site.
- Do not sleep with gauze in your mouth.

Swelling and Bruising:

- Swelling can be expected to increase during the first 48 hours after the procedure and peaks in 48-72 hours with a gradual reduction over a week.
- Apply ice to the surgical site for the first 48 hours if needed, 20 minutes on and 20 minutes off. Be sure to place a towel or barrier between the skin and the ice pack so the skin is not burned.
- Elevating the head with pillows when sleeping is helpful during the first 2-3 days.
- Bruising can occur on the outer face and persist for a few days after the procedure. Over time, the bruising may migrate down the face toward the neck.

Antibiotics

- Take antibiotic as prescribed until completed.

Oral Hygiene

- Resume normal brushing and oral hygiene the day after surgery. Keep the bristles on the teeth and be gentle around the surgical site.
- Begin gentle rinsing 24 hours after the procedure after meals with regular tap water or salt water. If you were given a medicated mouth rinse, use this morning and evening for one week starting 24 hours after the procedure.
- Avoid smoking as it limits and delays healing.

Diet

- Start with a soft, non-chew diet and gradually advance as you feel comfortable. Avoid hard and crunchy foods.