
POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS: DENTAL IMPLANTS

- Place ice on the outside of the face in areas of surgery for 20 minutes on and 20 minutes off for a period of 4–6 hours; this may help reduce swelling. Remember that the largest swelling is usually seen about 48 hours after surgery. Continue to ice intermittently for 48 hours.
- You may begin drinking clear liquids when you return home. You may have soft foods today unless instructed otherwise by your doctor.
- Wear your prosthesis (denture) as instructed to by your doctor.
- Take medication as prescribed. If antibiotics are prescribed, you should take them as directed. Use prescription pain relievers only as needed for severe pain. Please remember not to drive or operate machinery after using prescription pain medication. Many patients have good relief of discomfort with ibuprofen or acetaminophen.
- Do not drive or operate machinery for 24 hours if you received an intravenous (IV) anesthetic or sedation.
- Begin the salt water rinsing the day after surgery 4 times a day (½ tsp of salt in 8 oz of water) for a minimum of 1 week—or longer if you are catching food. Use the Peridex™ mouth rinse, if prescribed, for 1 week.
- The doctors are available 24 hours a day if you have any significant problems. Call us anytime.