

Post-Operative Instructions: Oral Pathology

- Bleeding may occur for several hours after your procedure. This bleeding can be controlled by placing a rolled up, clean gauze directly over the surgery site and putting firm pressure. Change the gauze every 45 minutes until there is just a red spot, then leave gauze out.
- You should drink liquids and eat soft foods for the first 24 hours after surgery, starting 1 hour after leaving. No steaming hot foods for 24 hours after surgery. Hot encourages bleeding.
- **NO smoking, use of straws, vigorous rinsing, spitting, or use of commercial mouthwashes for 48-72 hours.**
- Take your medication as directed. You need to take a pain pill as soon as you arrive home with soft, cool foods. Numbness will usually only last 2-3 hours. The antibiotics are also better tolerated when there is food in your stomach, but you may wait until dinner to start.
- If stitches are used, they are dissolvable and will come out by themselves in 3-10 days.
- You may gently brush your teeth following surgery, but stay away from the open area and stitches for a few days.
- On the **FIRST DAY** after surgery, salt water rinses 2-3 times a day for 5 days. (One teaspoon of salt per 8 ounces of warm water.)
- Remember to keep your mouth as clean as possible during the healing period.

YOU MAY EXPERIENCE:

- **Pain:** If you have pain UNRELIEVED by the medication prescribed, call the office. Due to FDA regulations, pain medication can no longer be called in. A written prescription is required.
- **Swelling:** Mild to moderate swelling and bruising is normal after surgery and should subside over the next 3-5 days.
- **Bleeding:** If heavy bleeding occurs holding pressure with gauze contact the office.
- **Stiffness:** This is a normal response to surgery. Exercising your mouth will help.
- **Numbness:** This is a normal reaction to the local anesthesia injected.

PATH SPECIMEN AND RESULTS:

A tissue specimen (biopsy) was sent to the University of Louisville Oral Pathology Laboratory for pathology diagnosis. You will receive a bill for this service; however, your medical insurance plan may provide coverage for this fee. If you do receive a bill for this service and have a question, please call the UofL Oral Pathology Laboratory at (502) 852-5654. We will see you back for a follow-up within the next 2 weeks, or Dr. Hudson will call you with the biopsy results.