



PRAIRIE PATH™

ORAL SURGERY • CAROL STREAM

Mark F. Erickson, DDS  
Alejandro J. Valladares, DDS

Diplomates, American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

383 S SCHMALE ROAD • CAROL STREAM, ILLINOIS 60188

phone (630) 909-0500 • fax (630) 909-0800

---

## POST OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS - EXTRACTIONS

\*\*Please read both sides of these instructions carefully\*\*

Sometimes the after effects of oral surgery are quite minimal, so not all of the instructions may apply. Common sense will often dictate what you should do. However, when in doubt follow these guidelines or call our office for clarification. Our phone number is (630) 909-0500.

### DAY OF SURGERY

**FIRST HOUR:** Bite down gently but firmly on the gauze packs that have been placed over the surgical areas, making sure they remain in place. Do not change them for the first hour unless the bleeding is not controlled. The packs may be gently removed after one hour. If active bleeding persists, place enough new gauze to obtain pressure over the surgical site for another 30 minutes. The gauze may then be changed as necessary (typically every 30 to 45 minutes). It is best to moisten the gauze with tap water and loosely fluff for more comfortable positioning.

**EXERCISE CARE:** Do not disturb the surgical area today. Do **NOT** rinse vigorously or probe the area with any objects. You may brush your teeth gently. **PLEASE DO NOT SMOKE** for at least 48 hours, since this is very detrimental to healing and may cause a dry socket.

**OOZING:** Intermittent bleeding or oozing overnight is normal. Bleeding may be controlled by placing fresh gauze over the areas and biting on the gauze for 30 to 45 minutes at a time.

**PERSISTENT BLEEDING:** Bleeding should never be severe. If so, it usually means that the packs are being clenched between teeth only and are not exerting pressure on the surgical areas. Try repositioning the packs. If bleeding persists or becomes heavy, you may substitute a tea bag (soaked in very hot water, squeezed damp-dry and wrapped in moist gauze) for 20 or 30 minutes. If bleeding remains uncontrolled, please call our office.

**SWELLING:** Swelling is often associated with oral surgery. It can be minimized by using a cold pack, ice bag or a bag of frozen peas wrapped in a towel and applied firmly to the cheek adjacent to the surgical area. This should be applied twenty minutes on and twenty minutes off during the first 24 hours after surgery. If you have been prescribed medicine for the control of swelling, be sure to take it as directed.

**PAIN:** At times, oral surgery is accompanied by some degree of discomfort. For moderate pain, take 400 mg of Ibuprofen with 500 mg of Acetaminophen (Extra Strength Tylenol) every 4 hours at the same time. It is most effective if taken around the clock for the first 72 hours following surgery.

If pain is not manageable with Ibuprofen and Extra Strength Tylenol, you may replace the Extra Strength Tylenol with one (1) Hydrocodone-Acetaminophen, if prescribed. **\*\*DO NOT TAKE EXTRA STRENGTH TYLENOL AND HYDROCODONE-ACETAMINOPHEN AT THE SAME TIME.\*\***

Always verify the dosage on your bottle at home before taking any medications. Dosages vary per bottle.

Ibuprofen Maximum Dose: 2400 mg per day  
Acetaminophen Maximum Dose: 3000 mg per day

Do not take the above medications if you are allergic to them or have been instructed not to by your physician. Do not take Ibuprofen products if you take blood thinners such as Coumadin or Plavix. Do not take any of the above medication if you are allergic to them, or have been instructed by your doctor not to take it. Do not drive an automobile or work around machinery. Avoid alcoholic beverages. Pain or discomfort following surgery should subside more and more every day. If pain persists, it may require attention and you should call the office.



PRAIRIE PATH™

ORAL SURGERY • CAROL STREAM

Mark F. Erickson, DDS  
Alejandro J. Valladares, DDS

Diplomates, American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

383 S SCHMALE ROAD • CAROL STREAM, ILLINOIS 60188

phone (630) 909-0500 • fax (630) 909-0800

---

**If you find that you are taking large amounts of pain medicine at frequent intervals, please call our office. If you anticipate needing more prescription medication for the weekend, you must call for a refill during weekday business hours.**

**NAUSEA:** Nausea is not uncommon after surgery. Sometimes pain medications are the cause. Nausea can be reduced by preceding each pain pill with a small amount of soft food, and taking the pill with a large volume of water. Try to keep taking clear fluids and minimizing dosing of pain medications, but call us if you do not feel better. Classic Coca Cola may help with nausea.

**DIET:** Eat any nourishing food that can be taken with comfort. Avoid extremely hot foods. It is sometimes advisable, but not absolutely required, to confine the first day's intake to liquids or pureed foods (soups, puddings, yogurt, milk shakes, etc.). It is best to avoid foods like nuts, sunflower seeds, popcorn, etc., which may get lodged in the socket areas. Over the next several days you may gradually progress to solid foods. It is important not to skip meals! If you take nourishment regularly you will feel better, gain strength, have less discomfort and heal faster. If you are diabetic, maintain your normal eating habits or follow instructions given by your doctor.

**SHARP EDGES:** If you feel something hard or sharp edges in the surgical areas, it is likely you are feeling the bony walls which once supported the extracted teeth. Occasionally small slivers of bone may work themselves out during the following week or so. If they cause concern or discomfort, please call the office.

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SECOND AND THIRD DAYS FOLLOWING SURGERY**

**MOUTH RINSES:** Keeping your mouth clean after surgery is essential. Use warm water and gently rinse, taking five minutes to use the entire glassful. Repeat as often as you like, but at least two or three times daily.

**BRUSHING:** Begin your normal oral hygiene routine as soon as possible after surgery. Soreness and swelling may not permit vigorous brushing, but please make every effort to clean your teeth within the bounds of comfort.

**HEALING:** Normal healing after tooth extraction should be as follows: The first two days following surgery are generally the most uncomfortable and there is usually some swelling. On the third day, you should be more comfortable and, although still swollen, can usually begin a more substantial diet. The remainder of the post-operative course should be gradual, steady improvement. If you don't see continued improvement, please call our office.

It is our desire that your recovery be as smooth and pleasant as possible. Following these instructions will assist you, but if you have questions about your progress, please call the office. Calling during office hours will afford a faster response to your question or concern. **Per the Control Substance Act, no narcotic refill authorizations can be called into the pharmacy.**

**Please Note: We are unable to give written prescriptions during non-business hours or on the weekends.**