

Post-operative care after extractions

- Your child received local anesthesia and is likely to be numb for the next 2-3 hours. Please try to not allow your child to bite their lip, cheek, or tongue. Children (especially young children and those with special healthcare needs) may bite or chew the numb cheek or lip. If this happens, the child's lip will become swollen and then appear white where the bite injury occurred. This typically will look worst 48 hours after the bite and will then improve. No treatment is necessary, although ibuprofen or acetaminophen may be given to ease discomfort.
- We recommend that the child bite firmly on gauze for 20 minutes after leaving our practice. Have the child bite the gauze firmly and not "chew" on the gauze.
- The patient should not spit for 20 minutes.
- It is normal for a small amount of blood to ooze from the extraction site for 12-24 hours following the extraction.
- If bleeding continues, place one piece of a firmly folded gauze in mouth and have child bite tightly on the gauze for another 20 minutes.
- Resume brushing tonight, but avoid the area of extraction for 3-4 days.
- Keep activity level low today with quiet play. No swimming, running, or vigorous play for 24 hours.
- No sucking liquids through a straw for 24 hours.
- Your child may have discomfort and you may notice some minor swelling following an extraction. Children's ibuprofen or acetaminophen may be used if there is discomfort. Follow directions on the bottle for dosing instructions and do not take more than the recommended amount.
- A cold, moist cloth or an ice bag can be used periodically, although this is not typically necessary.
- After 24 hours, if the child is able, we suggest that the child rinses his/her mouth with warm salt water (1/2 teaspoon of salt in a glass of warm water), 3-4 times per day for 2-3 days. This can help healing but is not absolutely necessary.
- In the unlikely event that your child experiences any severe swelling, prolonged heavy bleeding, severe prolonged pain, or allergic reactions, please call us immediately or go to the emergency room for immediate medical attention.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please call our office at (734) 662-1591.