

1. Blood Clot and Surgical Site Protection

Slight bleeding after extractions is normal and may last for several hours. Bite on folded gauze directly over the bleeding area. If there is no active bleeding, then leave the gauze out. Lay in a semi-reclined position. **Avoid spitting, bending over, sucking through a straw, and rinsing for 24 hours. No strenuous activity, smoking, or alcohol for 48 hours.** The blood clot is important for healing.

2. Rinsing

Rinsing may dislodge the blood clot and interrupt the normal process of healing. Carefully follow these steps in order.

Day 1 (Day of surgery – first 24 hours)

Do not rinse or brush your teeth. Do not spit.
Begin applying AO gel to the site.

Day 2 (24-48 hours after surgery) 24 Hour Time: _____

- Brush your teeth, with water only, 2 times daily. Be gentle around the surgical site.
- If you have a non-fixed denture, remove it, rinse, and clean the inside of the denture, and replace immediately.
- Begin rinsing **gently** using a glass of room temperature salt water (**1/2 tsp per cup**). Repeat 2 times daily.
- Follow with **Stella Life** mouth rinse
- **Never brush the gums.**
- **Never brush and exposed membrane.**
- **Never brush the surgical site.**

Day 3 (48-72 hours after surgery)

Same regimen as day 2, however, begin rinsing 3 times daily.

Day 4 through day 24 (6 weeks)

- Same regimen as day 3, however, now rinse with full force.
- Continue rinsing and cleaning in this manner for 30 days.
- You may use a mild toothpaste (no tartar control, no whitening). We recommend GCMI paste.
- For your prosthesis, use a mild, non-abrasive paste, such as Sensodyne.

6 weeks after surgery

Begin using a Waterpik and floss threader. This will be provided at the six-week follow-up appointment.

3. Medications

Take antibiotics and steroids as instructed until complete.

4. Swelling

Cool packs and pressure outside of the surgical site will be helpful in reducing inflammation, bruising, and hematoma formation. Leave cool packs on for 20 minutes, then remove for 20 minutes, and replace as often as possible on the first day. Similar use in following days will also be helpful for reducing swelling and bruising.

5. Diet

Cool, clear liquids are best to start. **No hot liquids, carbonated beverages (soda), acidic foods and drinks for the first 6 weeks.** Eat something when you feel ready. When the numbness wears off, progress to a pureed diet for three months. Reference the *I Can't Chew* cookbook for ideas.

6. Baseline Pain

Unless you are allergic to or otherwise cannot take Ibuprofen or Tylenol (acetaminophen), please start taking the following:

800mg of Ibuprofen and 500mg of Tylenol every 8 hours for 4 days.

- You will receive a prescription for Ibuprofen
- Extra Strength Tylenol (500 mg) may be purchased over-the-counter

Breakthrough pain: you may take additional Tylenol, not to exceed 4000mg in one day. You may substitute Hydrocodone (which contains 325mg of Tylenol) for Tylenol.

After day 4: you may take over-the-counter Ibuprofen and Tylenol.

- We recommend no more than 2400mg of Ibuprofen in a day, if taking it for extended periods after post operative day 4.
- We recommend no more than 2000mg of Tylenol in a day, if taking it for extended periods after post operative day 4.

If pain is exceeding the recommended regimen, contact the office.

7. Nausea

Nausea is a normal side effect of narcotic pain medications. If you have severe nausea or vomiting, you should discontinue the narcotic pain medication and call the office.

Patient Name: _____

Ride Signature: _____

Next dose of Ibuprofen with Tylenol:
