

IMPLANT POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

DENTAL IMPLANT

A dental implant has just been placed in your mouth. The implant is located under the tissue and usually cannot be seen. This type of implant has been selected for your particular situation because of the bone available to place an implant. The implant will remain submerged for a period of three to six months depending upon your bodies healing properties.

Your restorative dentist will make a temporary tooth replacement for you if it is necessary. Usually you are able to continue wearing your present partial or flipper. If braces are being worn, your orthodontist will place a tooth for cosmetic purpose.

Two weeks after surgery the sutures will be removed and you will be examined by the doctor. Every consideration must be given to keep the surgical site clean and free of food particles. The following are instructions for mouth care after surgery:

1. Avoid alcohol, smoking or very hot fluids for remainder of the day. **SMOKING** especially is to be avoided since it increases the heat in the surgical area and significantly lowers the body's ability to heal the site. Avoid use of a water pik.
2. Rinsing of the mouth should be started the day of surgery. Frequent gentle rinsing with lukewarm salt water will aid the healing process and maintain cleanliness. Add ½ tsp salt to 6 oz. glass of water. If further cleansing seems indicated, gently swab with a cotton applicator dipped in warm water.
3. **PAIN** - Certain amount of pain must be expected with all types of surgery. An appropriate pain medication has been prescribed for you. Please take it according to instructions.
4. **SWELLING** - Some swelling is to be expected and is not unusual. In most instances swelling can be prevented or controlled. Apply the ice pack that has been given to you for a period of 20 minutes on and 20 minutes off for the remainder of the day. The application of ice or cold towel to the outside of the face over the surgical area will minimize swelling. If after two days you still have unordinary swelling or pain, please call the office.
5. **BLEEDING** - Some oozing or trickling of blood from the treated areas is common for the first 24 hours and is of no concern. We suggest that you cover your pillow tonight and sleep with your head slightly elevated. If excessive bleeding occurs, place gauze or a tea bag in the area with pressure to stop the bleeding. If you feel that the bleeding is too much, please call the office or the doctor's home.
6. **DIET** - Following surgery it is best to restrict your diet to fluids and soft foods for the first day. A normal diet may then be resumed the following day, but you will want to avoid chewing on the implant site until the tissue is completely healed,

Soft foods such as mashed potatoes, pudding, jello, scrambled eggs, pasta, spaghetti and soups are suggested. If you have difficulty chewing try to puree foods or try diet supplements such as Carnation Instant Breakfast, Ensure or Boost, etc..

7. **ANTIBIOTICS** - An appropriate antibiotic may be prescribed for you. It is very important that the prescription is filled and taken as directed. Please take tablets/capsules as directed on the prescription label.
8. **IMPLANT FOLLOW-UP** –
 - a. You will be expected to return for periodic checkups until the submerged portion becomes stable. This is usually a period of three to six months depending on the type of implant.
 - b. After the healing period has been completed, the doctor will place a head on the submerged implant. You will be instructed at the time on how to check and care for the head.
 - c. You will be referred back to your dentist for placement of a fixed crown, bridge, or denture at the appropriate time.

If you have any problems or questions, please call the office at (614) 575-0070.

As a courtesy to our other patients, we request 2 business days' notice prior to changing your reserved appointment.