

AFTER YOUR EXTRACTION

Continue to bite on the gauze provided for 1 hour, changing every 10-15 minutes.

Extraction of teeth is an irreversible process and, whether routine or difficult, is a surgical procedure. As in any surgery, there are some risks. They include, but are not limited to:

1. Swelling and/or bruising and discomfort in the surgery area.
2. Stretching of the corners of the mouth resulting in cracking and bruising.
3. Possible infection requiring further treatment.
4. Dry socket- jaw pain beginning a few days after surgery, usually requiring additional care. It is more common from lower extractions, especially wisdom teeth. Rinsing vigorously and smoking will delay healing and increases the risk of dry socket.
5. Possible damage to adjacent teeth, especially those with large fillings or crowns.
6. Numbness or altered sensation in the teeth, lip, tongue, and chin, due to the closeness of the tooth roots (especially wisdom teeth) to the nerves which can be bruised or injured. Sensation most often returns to normal, but in rare cases, the loss may be permanent.
7. Trismus- limited jaw opening due to inflammation or swelling, most common after wisdom tooth removal. Sometimes it is the result of jaw joint discomfort (TMJ), especially when TMJ disease and symptoms already exist.
8. Bleeding- significant bleeding is not common, but persistent oozing can be expected for several hours.
9. Sharp ridges or bone splinters may form later at the edge of the socket. These may require another surgery to smooth or remove them.
10. Incomplete removal of tooth fragments- to avoid injury to vital structures such as nerves or sinuses, sometimes small root tips may be left in place.
11. Pain after your extraction can range from mild to severe depending on the complexity of the procedure. Pain is best managed with Ibuprofen taken every 4 to 6 hours as needed. Medication may also be prescribed by the doctor.

Most procedures are routine and serious complications are not expected. Those which do occur are most often minor and can be treated.

Please call the office if any questions arise. (978) 462-9611.

