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## INSTRUCTIONS TO PATIENTS FOLLOWING DENTAL EXTRACTION

Bleeding	A small ooze of blood is common for the first 12-24 hours
	If bleeding is heavy or persistent:
	- Gently rinse out your mouth with cold water
	- Place a clean damp gauze pack or similar over the bleeding area and
	bite firmly on the pad for 20-30 minutes
	- Bed rest with the head slightly elevated
	Place a towel over your pillow at night, as there may be some oozing during
	the night
	If bleeding persists or is severe, please contact the practice.
Bruising	Bruising may occur as the swelling starts to subside
Diet	Avoid hot foods and liquids
	Choose lukewarm liquids and soft foods and chew away from the wound
	site
	A gradual return to a normal diet is recommended
Discomfort	Discomfort will always occur with varying intensity.
	Take the recommended dose of analgesics (pain killers) as recommended by
	the dentist.
	Discomfort should decrease noticeably after 2-3 days with a resultant
	decrease in the need for analgesics.
General	AVOID consuming alcohol for at least 24 hours
	DO NOT smoke as this will lead to infection
	Your lips, tongue and cheeks may also be numb, be careful not to bite them
Infection	Infection is uncommon following dental extraction and if it does occur it will
	show itself later (after 3-5 days) with an increase in swelling and/or
	discomfort and/or the onset of a discharge.
	Please contact the practice if this occurs.
Mouth care	Oral hygiene is very important and promotes rapid healing and resolution of
	discomfort.
	Commencing the day after, brush teeth gently with a soft brush, gently rinse
	your mouth out with warm salty water following each meal morning and
	night.
Stiches	If stiches are used, a review appointment will be made 7-10 days following
	for suture removal.
Swelling	Swelling is a normal response and can vary depending on the site and
	difficulty of the extraction.
Work	Avoid strenuous work or exercise for the day