



EXPECTATIONS FOLLOWING DENTAL EXTRACTIONS

Tooth removal like any other surgical procedure can have a number of post operative symptoms. The following list of symptoms may occur, in varying degrees of severity, depending on the specific procedure and degree of difficulty involved in the extraction. Also included are suggestions that will help you minimise the symptoms you may encounter.

Potential post-operative symptoms

- **Swelling:** Your face may swell and be sore and you may have difficulty opening your mouth. The swelling subsides over 2-3 days, but can be relieved by using an ice pack for 20 minutes at a time, several times a day for 1-2 days post operatively.
- **Pain:** The pain you experience will vary depending on a number of factors, including underlying pain thresholds. Pain can be controlled with medication such as Nurofen, Panadol or Panadeine every 3 or 4 hours – please speak to your doctor or pharmacist regarding the most suitable option for your situation if you are unsure. Nurofen is also helpful in minimising swelling, but should only be taken after reading the enclosed product information. If greater pain relief is required, contact the Dental Surgery.
- **Bleeding:** Minor bleeding can occur for 24 hours after any tooth removal. This can be controlled by biting on a rolled up gauze pack, place over the extraction site. The Dentist will provide you with a pack at your appointment. If bleeding continues, contact the Dental Surgery.
- **Infection:** Bone, gum and or facial infection may occur following tooth removal. Mouth rinsing with Savacol mouthwash can help prevent this. If you suspect infection has occurred, contact your Dentist immediately.
- **Numbness and Altered Taste:** There is a possibility of altered sensation (numbness, burning, itching and altered taste) of the lips, teeth, chin, cheek or tongue after the extraction. The exact duration may be uncertain and may (in rare cases) be irreversible.
- **Dryness and Cracking:** Of lips and corners of the mouth may occur and can be relieved by applying a Lanolin type or Paw-paw ointment to these areas post operatively. Cleaning of the remaining teeth is essential. If necessary, use a child's toothbrush.
- **Root Fracture:** May occur during tooth removal. Where possible the fractured root shall be removed at the time. In some circumstances the fractured root tip may be left in situ and monitored, or a second appointment or referral may be required.
- **Weakened Jaw / Bone Fracture:** Removal of impacted teeth can cause a temporary weakening of the jaw bone. Contact sport should be avoided following tooth removal for at least four weeks. Should the jaw fracture at the time of surgery (unusual), the fracture will be stabilised and may require referral to a specialist.
- **Sinus:** Penetration of tooth roots into the sinus or a hole in the floor of the sinus may be created upon removal of an upper posterior tooth. Usually this does not cause a problem and healing will occur uneventfully. Where roots do enter the sinus, retrieval is required and may be carried out at a subsequent appointment or require a referral.
- **Sutures:** May be used and will either be dissolving or non-dissolving which require removal after 7 to 10 days post placement.
- **Delayed Healing:** Delayed and painful healing of the extraction site can occur. If your condition deteriorates after 3-5 days, contact the Dental Surgery immediately for prompt attention.
- **Allergy:** Reactions to drugs, medication or anaesthetics can occur. If you feel or sense an adverse reaction, stop taking the medication and contact the Dental Surgery.