

# TOOTH EXTRACTIONS

For your child to recover more rapidly from today's tooth extraction, please follow these important instructions.



- ✚ A gauze pack has been placed at the site of the extraction to help stop the bleeding and quickly form a clot. Keep this gauze in place for at least 20 minutes. If the gauze becomes saturated with blood, replace it with one of the gauze pads you received in our office. Fold the gauze in half and then in half again. After you place this folded pad on the extraction wound, tell your child to bite firmly. This direct biting pressure helps stop the bleeding. Repeat this procedure each time the gauze pad becomes saturated with blood until the bleeding stops. Once bleeding stops, it is alright to leave the gauze pad out of the mouth.
- ✚ If profuse bleeding continues (over ten pads in one hour), please call our office immediately.
- ✚ Your child has been given a local anesthetic for the extraction. Children do not always understand the sensation of being numb. They may chew or suck on their lip, tongue or cheek and may cause painful wounds in their mouth. **Please watch your child carefully to prevent this from happening.** If a tooth has been extracted on the upper jaw, the lip and surrounding gum tissue will be numb. When a tooth is extracted on the lower jaw, the tongue may also be numb. Please give your child a liquid diet until this numbness wears off. It is not unusual for the numbness to take up to three hours to wear off.
- ✚ Because your child has had a tooth extracted, certain things should be avoided for the next 2-3 days. Do not give your child spicy or acidic foods and juices such as tomatoes, oranges, and soda pop. Avoid hard food, such as nuts, chips, taco shells, etc. Nothing from a straw should be given for 2-3 days. If your child plays a musical instrument by mouth, this should be avoided for 1 week.
- ✚ Children's Motrin may be given if your child feels any discomfort when the numbness wears off. If the discomfort does not subside after 60 minutes, call our office at once.
- ✚ **Questions** - If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call our office. After hours, call the same number and follow the instructions to be connected to the Doctor on call.

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