



Banner Good Samaritan
Medical Center

Patient Care Instructions after an Incision and Drainage of Facial/Neck Abscess

Prescriptions - If you received a prescription for pain medication and antibiotics, follow the directions on the bottle. Take no other pain medications or sedatives without first discussing with your surgeon. Do not operate a motor vehicle or dangerous machinery (lawn mower, etc.) while taking the pain medication. Take the antibiotic as instructed on the bottle. Do not drink alcoholic beverages while taking pain medication.

Pain - Unfortunately, many oral surgery procedures are accompanied by some degree of discomfort. If you are able to take your pain medication prior to the anesthetic wearing off, you should be able to better manage discomfort. At times, pain medications (narcotics) may cause nausea, but if you precede each pill with a small amount of food, chances for nausea will be reduced.

Bleeding - Bleeding follows any surgery and should not alarm you unless it is persistent or excessive. Oozing can be controlled by biting on a piece of moistened gauze for 30-40 minutes. Make sure to bite down firmly on the gauze. Do not eat or sleep with the gauze in your mouth. If bleeding continues, verify that you are biting down directly on the surgical site, and not on adjacent teeth. If bleeding persists, or becomes heavy, you may substitute a tea bag (soaked in very hot water, squeezed damp-dry and wrapped in moist gauze) for 20 or 30 minutes. Please contact our office if oozing or bleeding continues in spite of these measures. Avoid spitting as it will promote bleeding.

Rinsing - Begin gentle rinsing with (1 teaspoon salt in 12 oz. warm tap water) four (4) times a day. You may carefully brush your teeth beginning tonight, but please be gentle over the surgical site. It is important that you maintain good oral hygiene post-surgery in order to help minimize the risk of developing an infection.

**Depending on the procedure, you may be prescribed a mouth rinse. If so, please follow the instructions on the bottle.

Diet - Take only liquids or very soft foods on the day of your procedure. Do not chew any solid foods in the surgical area until you return for the first follow-up visit.

Swelling - Swelling is normal following extraction AND incision and drainage procedures. It will usually reach its peak 2-3 days after the procedure. However, it may last as long as 7-10 days. An ice pack applied to your face over the operated area for the first 24 to 48 hours may be helpful in decreasing both pain and swelling. Swelling can also be controlled by elevating your head when you sleep at night. If your swelling increases dramatically, please contact our office.

In the case of an infection, it is possible that you will have some firmness at the surgical site. This should not be significantly tender or red, but may take several weeks to soften.

Sudheer Surpure, MD, DDS, FACS Jack Buhrow, DDS, MS Gregory Romney, DMD

Smoking - DO NOT SMOKE FOR AT LEAST ONE WEEK AFTER SURGERY. The heat and toxic chemicals in cigarette smoke are harmful to healing wounds. Also, do not use any smokeless tobacco.

Stitches - You may notice some stitches in your mouth. These will usually dissolve on their own. Do not be concerned if you lose a stitch prior to your first follow up appointment. In certain procedures, non-dissolvable sutures are used. We will plan to remove those during your postoperative appointments.

Miscellaneous - After leaving the hospital, you may have some restriction with opening. Please perform the exercises that were outlined by our staff in the hospital/clinic. This may take several weeks to resolve. Also, if you had a surgical incision on your neck, it may become firm in the coming months. Gently massage daily and it should reduce with time. It is also important that you keep this site clean with a moist towel and mild soap.

Questions/Problems - If any problems arise or if you have any questions or concerns please call the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Clinic at 602-839-5895. If after normal business hours, please call the clinic number and request to speak with the on-call Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery resident. There is a resident available 24 hours a day/7 days a week. If this is an urgent issue or one that cannot wait, then please return to the Banner Good Samaritan emergency department. Please return to the emergency department if you have persistent fevers/chills, dramatic increase in swelling, puss formation, changes in vision or discharge.