

Extractions

Numbness: The jaw (plus the tongue and lower lip if a lower tooth has been extracted) will be numb from anesthetic "sleepy juice" for 2-4 hours. Please watch your child so he/she does not bite or chew their cheek, lip or tongue.

Cotton/gauze: Hold gauze against the extraction site until active bleeding has stopped. This normally takes 30 minutes. It is normal for a small amount of bleeding to continue for 2-3 hours. This small amount can appear excessive due to blood mixing with saliva. If bleeding persists biting on a damp tea bag often helps.

Eating/drinking: After the bleeding has stopped it's okay to drink liquids, but NOT through a straw. Stick to soft foods like jello, pudding, applesauce, and mashed potatoes for the first day. By the second day more firm foods may be eaten as long as it's comfortable for the patient.

Pain/discomfort: It is normal to have discomfort in the extraction area after the numbness wears off. Acetaminophen or ibuprofen is sufficient to control the discomfort. Avoid the use of aspirin. Popsicles and ice chips can also help relieve soreness.

Oral hygiene: The extraction site will be sore but it is important to brush the teeth. Warm water can be ran over the bristles of the toothbrush to soften them. Wet gauze or a wet wash cloth can be used to gently wipe the gums around the extraction site.