



Home Care Following Dental Procedures

A local anesthetic has been used to make the treated area numb or “sleepy”. Please be sure your child does not suck or chew on his/her lip, cheek or tongue. It is best to wait until the area “wakes up” before eating, but if this is not possible, have your child be extremely careful and chew on the opposite side of the mouth. This is especially a problem when lower teeth have been treated. The anesthesia usually wears off about 1 to 2 hours after treatment.

If your child has had a tooth extracted:

We would like your child to bite on a folded gauze square until the hemorrhage (bleeding) has stopped or practically stopped. Usually 30 to 60 minutes. We will provide you with extra gauze so that it can be changed every 5 to 10 minutes. Please do not allow your child to spit or drink through a straw, as this will irritate the extraction site. Your child may prefer soft foods for a day or two. A mild pain reliever may be given, but remember that any medication containing aspirin will tend to increase bleeding time. Normal cleansing of the teeth and mouth should be continued.

If your child has had a crown placed:

A properly fit crown should extend slightly below the gum line. Because of this, the area may be sore after the anesthesia wears off. There may be some bleeding around the crown for a day or more. The soreness and bleeding is much less of a problem when the crowns are kept clean. You or your child should brush the area even if there is some discomfort at first.

If your child has had fillings placed:

Teeth with new fillings may be sensitive to temperature change for a few days to a few weeks. This is a normal reaction and usually diminishes unless the filling is exceptionally deep. It would be best if your child chewed on the opposite side of the mouth for the remainder of the day since many fillings do not reach maximum strength until 24 hours after placement. If a filling is done interproximal (between the teeth), flossing should not be done until the next day.

Call us if you have any questions or concerns.

San Marcos: 512.353.5500

San Antonio: 210.944.8111

Thank you for trusting us to care for your child's dental needs.