



Care of your Child's Mouth after Extraction

1. Following extractions, some bleeding is to be expected. Have your child continue to bite firmly on gauze pads for at least 20 to 30 minutes after the extraction. Your child must bite firmly to stop the bleeding. Repeat for 30 minutes more if necessary; discontinue if bleeding stops and is not oozing.
2. Make sure your child does not bite lip, tongue or cheek while it is numb. Reassure your child that numbness wears off in about 1 ½ to 2 hours. Younger children may state that they are "hurting" due to not understanding what feeling numb is.
3. If your child has any pain after anesthesia (numbness) has worn off, use Tylenol or Motrin as needed every 4 to 6 hours.
4. For the next 24 hours, avoid rinsing and spitting.
5. Give your child soft, mushy food today (such as overcooked pasta, mashed potatoes or lukewarm soup). A normal diet should be fine for tomorrow. Have your child avoid crunchy foods such as crackers, chips, and pretzels for several days.
6. For today, most drinks are okay, but avoid carbonated beverages and beverages that are too hot in temperature. No straws should be used today.
7. Following these instructions will quicken recovery and prevent complications. If any unusual symptoms develop, call our office at 678-990-8592.