



## After Placement of Dental Implants

Do not disturb the wound. Avoid rinsing, spitting, or touching the wound on the day of surgery. There may be a metal healing abutment protruding through the gingival (gum) tissue.

**Bleeding:** Some bleeding or redness in the saliva is normal for 24 hours. Excessive bleeding (your mouth fills up rapidly with blood) can be controlled by biting on a gauze pad placed directly on the bleeding wound for 20-30 minutes. If bleeding continues please call Dr. Kasperowski for further instructions.

**Swelling:** Swelling is a normal occurrence after surgery. To minimize swelling, apply an ice bag, a plastic bag, or towel filled with ice on the cheek in the area of surgery. Apply the ice intermittently (20 min on and 10 min off) for the first 24 hours.

**Diet:** Drink plenty of fluids. Avoid hot liquids or food. Soft food and liquids should be eaten on the day of surgery. You can return to a normal diet over the next few days.

**Pain:** You should begin taking pain medication before you feel the local anesthetic wearing off. Ibuprofen (Advil or Motrin), bought over the counter comes in 200 mg tablets: 3-4 tablets may be taken every 6 hours as needed for pain. For moderate pain, 1 or 2 Tylenol or Extra Strength Tylenol may be taken every 3-4 hours in addition to the ibuprofen. For severe pain, the prescribed medication should be taken as directed. Do not take any of the above medication if you are allergic, or have been instructed by your doctor not to take it.

**Antibiotics:** Be sure to take the prescribed antibiotics as directed to help prevent infection.

**Oral Hygiene:** Good oral hygiene is essential to good healing. The day after surgery, Peridex antibacterial oral rinse should be used twice daily, after breakfast and before bed. Be sure to rinse for at least 30 seconds then spit it out. Warm salt water rinses (teaspoon of salt in a cup of warm water) should be used at least 3- 4 times a day, as well, especially after meals. Be gentle initially with brushing the surgical areas.

**Activity:** Keep physical activities to a minimum immediately following surgery. If you are considering exercise, throbbing or bleeding may occur. If this occurs, you should discontinue exercising.

**Wearing your Prosthesis:** Partial dentures, flippers, or full dentures should not be used immediately after surgery. Talk to Dr. Kasperowski about special circumstances.