

# DR. CHARLES A. WHITE

*Practice Limited to Periodontics*

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## POST-OP INSTRUCTIONS Tooth Exposure for Orthodontics

**PRESCRIPTIONS:** Have all prescriptions filled prior to surgery. Take your medications only as directed. Regular medication prescribed by your physician should be taken as usual, unless you are told to do otherwise. Take PAIN MEDICATION before you begin to feel discomfort, with fruit juice or a full glass of water. Never take pain medication on an empty stomach. Fasting is not required prior to surgery. Do not use aspirin or products containing aspirin the week prior to or following surgery. If ANTIBIOTICS were prescribed, take them as directed until all have been taken. Patients taking birth control pills should be aware that ANTIBIOTICS could alter the effectiveness of the birth control pill. PERIOGUARD oral rinse should be used twice a day starting the day after surgery to kill bacteria around the surgical area. PHENERGAN may be prescribed. This is to be used only if you experience nausea. If ATIVAN, VALIUM, or any sedative is prescribed YOU MUST HAVE SOMEONE DRIVE YOU FOR THE APPOINTMENT.

Please have your index finger on both hands free of nail polish or artificial nails so that we can monitor your vital signs.

**SWELLING:** After 24 hours, a heating pad or moist heat may be used to decrease swelling. When using heat, apply 20 to 30 minutes of each hour. It is also beneficial to take the anti-inflammatory medication IBUPROFEN or ALEVE and to sleep with your head elevated to reduce swelling. If swelling persists after several days and is not resolving, contact Dr. White for instructions.

**BLEEDING:** Some bleeding is normal during the first day following surgery. Cover your pillow with a towel to prevent staining. If you have a surgical stent, wear it until you return for the first postoperative visit. Purple blood clots sometimes form along the edges of the stent and may bleed for prolonged periods of time. Simply remove the blood clots with moist gauze and apply pressure to the stent to stop bleeding. SPECIAL NOTE: AVOID PEROXIDE, ALCOHOL, CARBONATED BEVERAGES, DRINKING STRAWS, AND SMOKING for at least 24 hours. These things, as well as heat, can contribute to bleeding problems.

**NUTRITION:** Adequate nutrition is essential for normal healing. The first 24 hours following surgery your diet should be restricted to COLD LIQUIDS. Dietary supplements, such as Instant Breakfast or Nutriment, are good. Gradually progress to soft foods, which are easily chewed and swallowed. Chew your foods using teeth far removed from the graft sites so that the grafts are not disturbed. Do not skip meals. If you take nourishment regularly, you feel better, gain strength, have less discomfort, and heal faster. Please eat a normal meal before surgery.

**HEALING:** You may notice a void around the exposed tooth. This void will rapidly fill in with gum tissue within the first week. Every attempt is made to save gum tissue around the impacted tooth as it erupts into position. Healing should be nearly complete within 2 weeks.

**ORTHODONTIC ATTACHMENT:** A bracket with a gold chain is usually bonded to the impacted tooth to attach to the archwire and begin the eruption process. Every attempt is made to leave the impacted tooth exposed so a bracket can be reattached if the bond fails. You should see your Orthodontist within a few weeks of the exposure so that they can place appropriate tension on the impacted tooth to direct eruption.

**SUTURE:** The suture will resorb within the first 2 weeks. Please notify Dr. White if your sutures become loose and you note bleeding.

**REST:** Plan to rest the remainder of the day of surgery and the following day. After that time, you should be able to return to your regular schedule, EXCEPT such activities as jogging, aerobic exercise, and other strenuous activities. These should be discontinued for the week following surgery. Use good judgement when returning to more strenuous activities.

**PAIN:** Following surgery, pain is usually mild to moderate in severity and usually persists for 24 to 36 hours. Your discomfort should gradually diminish after the first day. IF YOU HAVE SEVERE PAIN AFTER 24 HOURS, CONTACT DR. WHITE. Please make sure that you have no plans to fly for at least one week following surgery. One additional week would be best. Flying could retard healing and cause unnecessary pain and bleeding due to pressure. Automobile trips are fine as long as the surgery is not extensive. Keep in mind that if you leave town following surgery you may not be able to be seen as quickly by Dr White if there is a problem. We want the opportunity to see you if there are any problems following surgery.

**DEBONDING:** If the bracket attached to the impacted tooth falls off, Dr. White will attach a new bracket. If your tooth is deeply impacted and the gums grow over the tooth before it erupts into the mouth, a second surgical exposure would be required to attach another bracket. We will attempt to warn you if this is a possibility. A fee is charged for a second exposure procedure.

**QUESTIONS/PROBLEMS:** It is our sincere desire to have you as comfortable as possible during the healing period. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call. Office phone 479-631-6074. Dr. White's cell phone: 479-644-1087. Dr. White's home phone: 479-936-7087.