

Biopsy Post-Operative Instructions

Try not to disturb the area where your Biopsy was performed. To avoid irritation, keep your tongue away from the surgical site as much as possible. You may have stitches so do not be alarmed if they loosen or fall out before tonight or before your post-operative visit. Attaining pathology results from a biopsy can take up to two weeks. Your doctor will inform you of your results at your post-operative visit and will provide you with a copy.

Bleeding

Some minor bleeding may occur after the procedure. This can last up to 24 hours. If bleeding is rapid and doesn't slow down when pressure is applied it is best to call the office to speak with a Surgical Assistant or the Doctor for further instructions.

Swelling

Swelling can be a normal occurrence after surgery. In some instances swelling can be worse or peak on the third to fourth day after surgery. Should the swelling increase beyond this time period or be accompanied by severe pain or an elevated temperature, then please notify your doctor. If applicable, apply an ice pack to the outside of the face corresponding to the surgical site. Place the ice pack for 20 minutes at a time then rest for 20 minutes. Please apply ice packs for 48 hours starting the day of surgery. If the biopsy was taken from the tongue or roof of mouth then direct application of ice chips will be most beneficial.

Pain Medications

You may have been given prescriptions for one or more pain medications to help manage severe discomfort following your surgery. However, in some cases moderate discomfort can be controlled with Tylenol or an anti-inflammatory medication like Motrin or Ibuprofen. These medications can be alternated with a narcotic medication in most cases. Take these and all medications as prescribed and in the manner indicated by your doctor. It is a good idea to begin taking your pain medications while you are still numb and one hour after anti-inflammatory.

* While taking narcotic pain medications, do not drink alcoholic beverages, drive, or operate any machinery for 24 hours after the last dose of narcotic pain medicine. Some patients experience nausea and or vomiting as a result of narcotic pain medications.

Nausea

Nausea can be minimized or avoided by taking medications with food. If you have a persistent problem with nausea or vomiting, please notify your doctor.

Antibiotics

If you have been placed on antibiotics, take them as directed. If you have an unfavorable reaction such as a rash, please discontinue the medication and call the office for further instructions.

Oral Hygiene

Mouth cleanliness is essential to good healing. Start rinsing 24 hours after your surgery. Rinse with warm salt water (pinch of salt to an 8 oz cup of warm water) three to four times a day. Use the saltwater rinse in addition to any other rinses prescribed by your doctor. You may begin to brush your teeth 24 hours after surgery. Of course be gentle in the region(s) of the surgery.

Diet

Drink plenty of fluids; however avoid hot liquids and foods. Soft food and cool liquids should be eaten on the day of surgery. You may return to a normal diet, as tolerated, beginning the day after surgery but avoid crunchy food (popcorn, pretzels, potato chips, etc.) for a week after surgery, as these could become lodged and irritate the surgical area.

Activities

Resume normal activities a day or so after surgery, or as directed by your doctor. Please keep physical activities to a minimum immediately following surgery. The use of tobacco products slows down the healing process and may lead to developing other complications. We strongly recommend avoiding tobacco products, spitting, or the use of straws for one full week.

ATTENTION

It is our desire that your recovery be as smooth and pleasant as possible. Following these instructions will assist you, but if you have questions about your progress, please call the office at 757-499-6886. Hours are Monday through Thursday from 8 to 4:30 (8 to 3 on Friday).

A 24-hour answering service is available to contact the doctor on call after hours. Calling during office hours will afford a faster response to your question or concern.

NOTE: Calls for Narcotic (pain) medication refills are **ONLY** accepted during office hours.

Oral Surgery of Tidewater