

Minor Mouth Surgery

How to care for your child at home

To Learn More

- Dental Medicine
206-987-2243
- Ask your child's nurse or doctor
- www.seattlechildrens.org

Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your child's nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.
- For Deaf and hard of hearing callers
206-987-2280 (TTY)

What about my child's bleeding?

When you leave the clinic after mouth surgery, your child will be biting down on a gauze pad. The constant pressure helps the blood clot. Remove the pad after 20 minutes.

Blood may ooze all day. If there is a lot of bleeding, get a new piece of gauze wet and fold it over into a pad. Place the new pad over the wound. Have your child bite down firmly for 20 minutes. If your child keeps bleeding, please call the clinic.

What about pain medicine?

When you get home, give your child the pain medicine before the numbness from the local anesthetic wears off.

If your child feels sick to their stomach or vomits after taking the medicine, wait awhile before giving them anything to drink or more medicine. When your child feels better, give clear fluids such as water or flat 7-Up and then give the medicine again. If your child keeps vomiting, please call the clinic.

Give the pain medicine as directed until the wound feels better. Some pain or ache may last for a week. If it hurts more after the third day, please call the clinic.

Is swelling bad?

No, swelling means the wound is healing. The most swelling is 2 days after surgery. It will take 5 to 7 days to go away. If the swelling keeps increasing after the third day, please call the clinic.

How are ice packs used?

The amount of swelling in the first 3 days depends on the amount of surgery. Ice packs may help. Place an ice pack on the outside of your child's face. Leave it on for 15 minutes. Take it off for 15 minutes. Then, repeat this sequence for the rest of the day.

If swelling increases after three days, please call the clinic.

What about rinsing with warm salt water?

Salt water helps keep the wound clean and makes it feel better. Have your child rinse their mouth starting the day after surgery. Mix ½ teaspoon of salt in a large glass of warm water. Have your child swish the warm salt water in their mouth for a few seconds (10 to 15) every 2 to 3 hours for the rest of the day.

Starting the day after surgery your child can continue brushing their teeth as usual, but have them avoid touching the wound with the toothbrush.

Seattle Children's offers interpreter services for Deaf, hard of hearing or non-English speaking patients, family members and legal representatives free of charge. Seattle Children's will make this information available in alternate formats upon request. Call the Family Resource Center at 206-987-2201.

This handout has been reviewed by clinical staff at Seattle Children's. However, your child's needs are unique. Before you act or rely upon this information, please talk with your child's healthcare provider.

© 1994, 2003, 2007, 2009 Seattle Children's, Seattle, Washington. All rights reserved.

6/09
PE163