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CARE AFTER BABY TOOTH EXTRACTION

The following are only guidelines and may be altered to tailor to your specific needs. Your doctor may have told you slightly different instructions than listed here. Our primary goal is your comfort. Please do not hesitate to call if you have questions.

AFTER YOUR SURGERY:

1. Remove gauze when you get home. Replace only if there is active bleeding. Active bleeding is equivalent to dark red pooling blood that saturates the gauze. Small amounts of pink/red/orange on the gauze or in saliva is normal for the first 24-48 hours. If gauze is needed, bite down on gauze for 30 minutes at a time. If you feel that you cannot stop active bleeding, please call.
2. Take children's ibuprofen (children's Motrin/Advil) by mouth as dosage is outlined on the bottle. This will help with both discomfort and swelling. This can be continued on a schedule until discomfort is improved. Children's acetaminophen (Tylenol) can be taken if you cannot take ibuprofen (please follow dosage instructions on the bottle).
3. A narcotic pain medication may have been prescribed. It can be taken alternating with or at the same time as children's ibuprofen. Take with food, as pain medication can cause stomach upset.
4. Eat something soft, cool, and mushy while numb (yogurt, eggs, soup, mashed potatoes, ice cream, smoothie, pancakes, applesauce, for example). This will help prevent stomach upset, especially with medications.
5. Antibiotics, if prescribed, may be started this evening. If you are nauseated, wait until morning. Take with food and/or probiotic, as antibiotics can cause stomach upset.
6. Numbness will likely last 2-3 hours. On occasion, but not in all cases, a longer lasting anesthetic may have been used that lasts up to 12 hours. If numbness persists into the next day, please call.
7. Avoid biting lips and putting fingers in the mouth while numb.
8. Warm salt water rinses (1/4 tsp salt dissolved in a glass of warm water) may be used as many times per day as needed to remove food debris; generally 2-3x/day is adequate (before/after school, before bed). Continue with salt water rinses for 1 week, starting the day after surgery.

Emergencies: Our offices are open weekdays from 8:00am to 4:00pm, depending on the day of the week. If you have an emergency, please call to speak with a nurse or doctor. If during business hours, we will likely be able to have you come in if needed. If you have an emergency during non-business hours, please call our office, and the answering service will contact the doctor on-call.

WE DO NOT REFILL PRESCRIPTIONS FOR NARCOTIC PAIN MEDICATION DURING NON-BUSINESS HOURS

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