

We hope your recovery from your procedure is as comfortable for you as possible. Listed below are some simple tips for you after your procedure.

Post-op Instructions Gingival Grafting

What to expect following surgery:

- Bleeding: Small amounts of blood in the saliva can make your saliva appear quite red. This is normal and may be noticed the rest of the day after the procedure.
- Pain: Moderate discomfort may be noticed when the anesthetic first wears off and may continue for several days.
- Swelling: Some swelling and discoloration of the lip and/or cheek may occur and may last for a few days.
- Sensation: There may be a temporary loss of feeling in the gums in the operated area. The teeth may also feel loose for a time. The teeth may be sensitive to hot and cold temperatures.

What to do following the surgery:

- After leaving the office rest and avoid strenuous activities for the remainder of the day. Keeping blood pressure lower will reduce bleeding and aid healing.
- If pain medication is prescribed, take it as directed. Don't exceed the dose on the label. Taking medication with food or milk will help reduce upset stomach. Avoid driving or operating heavy machinery when taking pain prescriptions. Do not drink alcohol while taking prescription pain medications. If prescription pain medication is not required, you may take Tylenol, Advil or similar non- aspirin pain reliever every 4-6 hours to maintain comfort.
- Nausea is most often caused by taking pain medications on an empty stomach. Reduce nausea by preceding each pain pill with soft food, and taking the pill with a large glass of water.
- Applying an ice bag to the face over the operated area will minimize swelling. Apply for 15 minutes, and then remove for 15 minutes. Continue this for the first day.
- Eat soft foods for the first 2-4 days. Maintain a good, balanced diet. Drink plenty of water. Do not drink through a straw. Avoid alcohol for 38 hours.
- Avoid chewing directly over the operated area until the sutures are removed. Take care to avoid pulling the sutures.
- Do not rinse vigorously, do not use a Waterpik, Avoid alcohol rinses.
- Avoid lifting the lip with your fingers to look at the area. It is possible to accidentally tear the sutures, open the incision, and delay healing.
- Smoking should be stopped following surgery. Healing and success of the surgery will be substantially reduced by the cigarette smoke chemicals in your body.
- If you were given an antibiotic prescription, take all of them as directed until they are gone. Women: some antibiotics can reduce the effectiveness of birth control pills, Use alternate birth control methods for two months.
- You may be instructed to use a prescription antimicrobial mouth rinse. If a prescription mouth rinse is not recommended, you may rinse with a warm saltwater solution for 2-3 minutes every hour. Rinse gently. Do not rinse vigorously. Do not use alcohol rinses.
- Return to your dentist's office for removal of the sutures or follow-up checks as directed.

Please call your dentist if you have:

- uncontrollable pain
- excessive or severe bleeding
- marked fever
- excessive warm swelling occurring a few days after the procedure
- reactions to medications, especially rash, itching, or breathing problems

*Following these instructions very closely will greatly help your comfort, and promote uneventful healing of the area. If any of the instructions are not followed, you might have significantly more discomfort, and the success of the procedure may be affected. After a few days you will be fine and can resume your normal activities. If you should have heavy bleeding, severe pain, continued swelling for 2-3 days, or a reaction to the medication, call our office immediately at **505-293-2211 or 505-715-2772 (after hours)**.*