

FACIAL AND JAW FRACTURES

————— *POST-OP INFORMATION*





WHAT KIND OF BLEEDING WILL I EXPERIENCE?

Some oozing of blood may be expected from the surgical site for the first few hours. Your saliva may be tinged with blood for the remainder of the day.

WHAT KIND OF DISCOMFORT WILL I HAVE?

Your jaw and lips may remain numb for several hours. You should begin Ibuprofen (Rx, Advil, or Motrin) for discomfort while you are still numb. Pills can be crushed if needed. If you should begin to experience more than mild discomfort, you may supplement the Ibuprofen medication with the prescribed pain medication. If this is not sufficient, please contact our office.

WHAT CAN I EAT?

Patients who have been sedated can have nothing to eat or drink including water or medicine for several hours after surgery. Begin with clear liquids once you begin to feel hungry. A no-chew diet is required for the remainder of your treatment. The doctor must give you the OK first for foods that require chewing.

WILL THERE BE SWELLING?

Swelling can be minimized by keeping your head elevated (by using a recliner or two pillows when lying down) and placing ice packs over the surgical areas at 20 minute intervals (20 minutes on / 20 minutes off) during the first 48 hours. Ibuprofen has been prescribed to the patient for the main purpose of decreasing swelling although it may also help with pain. This medication should be taken 3 times a day approximately every 8 hours. It usually takes approximately 3-4 days before all swelling is apparent.

WILL I BRUISE?

Bleeding into the tissue around the jaws results in purplish bruises a few days following surgery. Do not be alarmed. Some patients have more bruising than others.

CAN I DRINK OR SMOKE?

Smoking should be avoided. However, if it is not possible to quit smoking completely, try to limit your smoking during the first 2 weeks. Alcoholic beverages should also be avoided for this time. Excessive smoking and alcohol consumption will affect healing and jeopardize the success of the surgery.

YOU MUST CARRY YOUR WIRE CUTTER WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES. *If you begin to vomit, cut wires and call our office.*