

Postoperative Instructions after Implant Surgery

- A. **Bleeding**: Expect some minor bleeding on the day of surgery. Report excessive bleeding to Dr. Rea immediately.
- B. **Swelling**: Expect some swelling in the area of implant placement for up to 72 hours following the procedure. Ice packs may be used during the first 24 hours to help reduce swelling. Ice packs should be utilized in a 20 minute on- 20 minute off fashion
- C. **Pain**: Moderate pain is common 24 to 48 hours following surgery. Take the prescription pain medication as prescribed by Dr. Rea. If intense pain persists that cannot be relieved by the prescribed medications, contact our office.
- D. **Bruising**: Occasionally bruising develops in areas close to the surgical site and may extend to other facial areas. In the lower jaw, bruising can extend to the lips, chin and neck. In the upper jaw, bruising can extent to the lips, cheeks and lower eyelids. Any discoloration from bruising should disappear within a week of appearance.
- E. **Antibiotics** : A prescription for antibiotics may be given, please take them as prescribed. Report any side effects, such as a rash or diarrhea to Dr. Rea immediately. Infection is rare following implant surgery, but occasionally an infection can occur. If fever, persistent swelling/pain or pus develops following surgery, contact Dr. Rea.
- F. **Cleaning your mouth**: Dr. Rea may have prescribed Peridex(chlorhexidine) for pre/post-surgical rinsing. You should rinse and spit two to three times a day. Regular tooth brushing should commence the day after surgery. This may cause some minor bleeding at the surgical site. If excessive bleeding occurs please contact Dr. Rea

G. **Dentures**: if you wore a denture before surgery, Dr Rea will request you to leave it out until your follow-up appointment. Dr. Rea will notify you when it is appropriate to start wearing your denture.

H. **Sinus**: If you had implants placed in the posterior maxilla (upper jaw) sinus complications may occur. Any sinus symptoms such as nasal stuffiness, or regurgitation should be reported to Dr. Rea.

I. **Sinus lifting in conjunction with implants**: Dr. Rea will provide specific precautions following surgery. These include no forceful nose blowing, no sucking through straws for a period of two weeks. Dr. Rea may also recommend an over the counter antihistamine/decongestant.

J. **Trismus**: Stiffness of the jaw muscles may be caused by swelling following surgery. As swelling decreases, trismus should subside. If it persists contact the office during regular business hours.

K. **Numbness**: Loss or alteration of sensation in the lower lip, chin, tongue, cheeks, gums, or teeth can occur if implants are placed and a nearby nerve is irritated. Usually this is temporary, but in very rare cases can be permanent. Report numbness to Dr. Rea at post-operative appointments if it is still present.

L. **Nausea**: If you had your implants placed under I.V. sedation, you may experience nausea and vomiting on surgery day and the following day. If this persists or becomes severe, contact the office.

M. **Sutures**: If sutures are placed they will dissolve in 7 to 10 days.

N. **Exposed implants**: Implant surgery can be performed in a single phase or in two phases. Single stage surgery will involve a healing cap placed at the initial implant surgery. This healing cap will protrude through the gum tissue and will be visible in the mouth. The role of this cap is to mould the gum tissue. Two phase surgery will involve implant placement which is not visible in the mouth. The healing cap will be placed 4 to 6 months after the initial surgery.

It is our desire that your recovery be as smooth and pleasant as possible. These instructions are given to assist you following your surgery, but if you have any questions about your progress please call the office.