

EVENTS THAT MAY OCCUR FOLLOWING ORAL SURGERY

1. Patients all respond differently to oral surgery procedures. A variable amount of swelling can be expected, especially when difficult third molar teeth are removed. Meticulous care at home after your surgery will be the best help in preventing this problem.
2. Numbness will be present after surgery from the local anesthetic for two to twelve hours. If it persists longer than 3 days, contact the office for evaluation by the Doctor. Because the nerve in the lower jaw, which supplies feeling to the teeth and lower lip, is very close to the roots of the impacted third molar, a possibility of minor nerve damage exists upon their removal. This will show up as numbness of the lip, chin, and/or tongue or increased sensitivity of the teeth, gums, and skin of the lower lip and chin. Should this rare complication occur, it is normally not a permanent situation, but complete return of feeling can take from a few weeks to several months.
3. A variable amount of discomfort always accompanies oral surgery procedures. A prescription for pain medication will be given to you. The first pill should be taken before the numbness wears off after your surgery.
4. It is impossible to predict with any degree of accuracy just how long your regular activities must be limited; however, most patients are able to resume relative normal activities two- or three-days following surgery. This period, in a small percentage of patients, may increase to as much as a week.
5. A low grade increase in temperature is to be expected, therefore, it is important to drink plenty of liquids after oral surgery. If, however, the temperature gets over 101 degrees F., it should be treated and your surgeon will prescribe medications for you.
6. Following an extraction, there can be a delay in the healing of the socket. This problem occurs in about 10% of patients and unfortunately cannot be predicted or prevented. The blood clot which forms in the opened extraction site disintegrates and dissolves – resulting in pain in the jaw, ear and neck. This is an uncomfortable situation which usually occurs about the 3rd to 5th day following surgery. Recovery takes a week to two weeks, during which period a medicated dressing is placed in the socket to control the discomfort.
7. Sinus involvement is not unusual following removal of upper teeth. The roots of upper premolar and molar teeth are very close to and often protrude into the sinus. Tooth removal can result in exposure of the sinus. This normally presents no problems, but, if it does, it is usually either a sinus infection or an opening between the mouth and sinus (Oral antral opening). This opening will usually close on its own within six weeks. Surgical closure may be necessary if complete repair does not occur within 3 months.



8. If a patient is fair skinned or very light complexioned, there are often areas of bruising on the skin near the surgical area. This can also occur in the mature adult patient.
9. Oral wounds can become infected due to the high bacterial population of the mouth. Antibiotics are given for infection and for prevention of infection in certain cases.
10. There will be a bad taste and unpleasant odor due to the blood clots that form in the extraction site. Following extraction, the extraction site may form a depression or hollow area which may trap food particles. The odor and food particles may be removed with warm salt water rinses.
11. Bone spicules sometimes work their way through the gum tissue and feel sharp to the tongue. These are not tooth fragments. In most instances they work out on their own, but it may be necessary for your surgeon to help in their removal.
12. An extremely rare problem, but one which might possibly occur, is a separation (or fracture) of the jaw. If the teeth are very deep and the bone is thin, this may occur. If it does occur, the fracture will be properly treated.
13. The venipuncture (needle in the vein) or the medications injected for sedation or anesthesia can sometimes produce an inflammation of the vein called phlebitis. This firmness and sometimes tenderness of the vein usually clears up without treatment. If this condition persists without improvement, an examination is necessary for diagnosis and treatment as indicated by your surgeon.