# Immediate Denture Post-Operative Care

## First 24 Hours Post-Op

For the first 24 hours your immediate denture is not to be removed from your mouth. If the denture is removed, swelling may occur that will make it difficult or impossible to replace the denture. Oozing of blood around the denture is normal and is not cause for concern. Your immediate denture not only replaces your missing teeth, but it is acting to protect the surgical site, control swelling, and control bleeding. The denture needs to be in place to be effective.

## After 24 Hours Post-Op

After 24 hours, we will see you for a follow-up. After your follow-up, in addition to your routine brushing, gently rinse your mouth with a lukewarm salt-water solution (made by dissolving 1/2 teaspoon of table salt in an 8 oz. glass of warm water.) Rinse 3 to 4 times a day for four or five days. Take care not to strain or empty your mouth with undue force.

## Swelling

Swelling is common after oral surgery for up to one week with the maximum amount of swelling usually present on the second day after surgery. The swelling will slowly resolve over 4-7 days. Apply an ice bag to the outside of the face for 20 minutes, and then leave off for 20 minutes. Repeat this procedure for 24 hours, and then discontinue using the ice. This will reduce discomfort, bleeding and swelling.

#### Diet

You may eat and drink. Soft foods are advisable for at least 24 hours. Avoid hard or crunchy foods. Drink as much liquid as possible, but do not go on a liquid diet. Do not consume liquids through a straw. You may resume normal physical activity as tolerated 2-3 days after your surgery.

After extractions do not spit, smoke or suck on a straw. Do not rinse your mouth vigorously. Do not drink any hot beverages or carbonated beverages. All of these things can dislodge blood clots that are necessary for healing.

#### Medication

Following dental surgery it is normal to experience some discomfort. If you have any pain, take two Tylenol, or Advil, every six hours. If medication has been prescribed, take as instructed.

Please note the following:

- All medications may produce allergic reactions and/or side effects.
- Narcotics may impede driving, using machinery and mental alertness.
- Antibiotics may negate birth control medications. Use alternative methods.