

IV Sedation / Anesthesia

Post-Op Instructions

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Please Follow The Post-Operative Instructions Below

1. Transport the patient straight home. Avoid stopping for any unnecessary reasons. Do not engage the patient in conversation as the gauze sponges may slip out of place. Encourage the patient to bite firmly on the gauze sponges for approximately 1 hour. Check the sponges when you get home - unless they have become saturated with blood you do not need to replace them. If they have become saturated with blood you may replace them for approximately 1 more hour and may do so in the event of bleeding; however, avoid replacing the gauze if there is minimal to no bleeding. The patient should be lying down, with head elevated, for the first 24 to 48 hours. If the patient is on their feet for any reason during the first 24 hours, an adult should accompany them and any such trips should be as brief as possible. Accompany the patient on any trips to the bathroom, do not let him or her lock the bathroom door, and encourage him to sit to urinate. If the patient becomes lightheaded while he is on his feet, make him lie down. Avoid steps where possible, but if you have to use them, consider having the patient sit to go up or down.
2. The anesthesia or numbing will usually start to wear off within two to three hours after you have left the office. Depending on the type of surgery and the difficulty it may last for several hours to almost the entire day. The patient may have something to drink immediately, preferably starting with clear liquids. Once the patient tolerates liquids fine, he may advance his diet postoperatively to a very soft mechanical diet during the first 24 hours, especially while the local anesthesia or numbing is still in effect. The patient may advance his diet after the anesthesia wears off, as directed by his surgeon. Please use pain medication as prescribed and directed by your surgeon.
3. It is not unusual to have oozing from the extraction sites for several hours to days after the surgery. If you notice persistent oozing once you have removed the gauze sponges, you may insert new gauze sponges and encourage the patient to bite firmly on them for another 60 minutes. If bleeding persists beyond 24 to 48 hours or is unusually heavy, you should contact us immediately. Excessive bleeding, however, is rare and almost never dangerous.
4. As long as the patient is on any prescription pain medication, he should avoid any activities wherein he might be injured as a result of impaired judgment. This includes driving vehicles.
5. Nausea and vomiting may occur after sedation or after taking pain medication. Emetrol (an over the counter medication at your local pharmacy) may help to relieve these problems. Please make sure that pain medication is not taken on an empty stomach. Call the office if symptoms persist.