

## Care of the Mouth after Surgery

- ✓ Immediately following tooth removal, keep pressure gauze over the extraction site for up to thirty minutes unless instructed to do otherwise, and then discard it.
- ✓ If there is excessive bleeding, fold two gauze pads into fourths and apply biting pressure for half an hour. If bleeding continues, have your child bite on a tea bag. The tannic acid in the tea is an excellent coagulant.
- ✓ Give your child the appropriate dose of children's Tylenol, Motrin or Advil when you take the gauze out. Your child should only need this for approximately 12 to 24 hours. If pain persists beyond 48 hours, call our office.
- ✓ DON'T drink through a straw, spit vigorously, drink through a sippie cup, or suck on the extraction site! This can start bleeding again.
- ✓ Your child should eat only soft food for two or three days - nothing crunchy and nothing too hot or cold because the area may be a little sensitive.  
*Encourage plenty of liquids*
- ✓ DON'T rinse the mouth the day of surgery. ON the following days, it is beneficial to rinse the mouth with warm salt water (1/4 teaspoon in a full glass of warm water) several times a day.
- ✓ Brush the remaining teeth regularly to keep the mouth as clean as possible.  
A clean mouth heals faster 😊
- ✓ Swelling is common after an extraction. Apply an ice pack for 15 minutes on and 15 minutes off as needed in the 24 hours following tooth removal.
- ✓ Your child's cheek, lip and tongue will be numb for approximately 1-2 hours.  
*Please be very careful that your child does not bite at his/her cheek or pick this area. As this area "wakes up" it may feel funny.*

If your child has prolonged or severe pain, swelling, bleeding, fever or have any questions or concerns you can call our office at (419) 628 -3380.