



ASSOCIATES IN ORAL & MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

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POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR BIOPSIES OF THE MOUTH

Biopsies in and about the mouth generally heal quite rapidly without problems. However, some problems may arise and certain precautions should be taken.

1. The area operated on will usually swell. Maximal swelling will occur 36-48 hours after surgery and is a normal process. You may apply ice to the outside of your face in the area of the biopsy site to control swelling.
2. Sutures (stitches) may be used to close the surgical wound. The majority of sutures placed are designed to dissolve within 3-7 days, although some may require removal. If a suture comes out prematurely this is generally not a problem.
3. Intermittent light bleeding at the biopsy site is normal. Light pressure with a gauze pack will usually control this.
4. You should avoid eating foods that may irritate the site (hot, spicy, acidic and coarse in texture) during healing.
5. Good oral hygiene is important for healing. Rinse your mouth with a dilute salt water solution.
6. The doctor will review your biopsy results with you at the time of your follow-up appointment.

Note: If you have problems associated with your procedure(s), please call our office at (520) 745-6531. If you call after normal office hours, you will receive our answering service and our on-call doctor will be able to assist you.