



## ASSOCIATES IN ORAL & MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

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### INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS WITH INTERMAXILLARY FIXATION

Intermaxillary fixation (wiring of the jaw shut) is the primary means of maintaining your jaws and teeth in their correct position while healing takes place. Any mobility is detrimental to healing. Everything will seem difficult the first week.

1. Wires are very tight initially and all of your teeth will feel the pressure of the tightness. This feeling will resolve in 3 to 4 days.
2. Post-operative nausea is rare. If you should get nauseated or vomit, remain calm. All fluids can pass through the wires.
3. Post-operative swelling may occur. You may use ice packs for 24-36 hours.
4. Take medications as prescribed by the doctor.
5. Some bleeding may occur but is usually minimal. You may rinse lightly with cool water.
6. Fluid intake and frequent meals are important. Follow dietary instruction sheet.
7. Scrupulous hygiene is a MUST! Brush with a small soft toothbrush 3 times each day. Use of a Water-Pik or similar device is very helpful.
8. Several normal reflexes, such as sneezing, coughing and yawning will continue to occur even though your jaw is wired shut. To minimize any discomfort this may create, support your jaw with the palm of your hand placed under your chin.
9. After several days, you may notice sharp wires bothering your cheek. Soft wax may be used to cover these up.

**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.