

## Care of the Mouth after an Extraction

Your child has had a tooth removed. The following are guidelines for after-extraction care.

**Bleeding** – The area where the tooth was removed may bleed for the first 15-30 minutes. Oozing of blood from the site may continue for an additional 3-6 hours. We ask that your child bite with gentle pressure on a gauze until the bleeding stops or the numb feeling is gone.

**Pain** – Some patients have discomfort with a dental extraction. If and how much will depend on several factors. All patients who have dental extractions will have the area numbed with local anesthetic before the extraction. This anesthetic will last 1-2 hours after the extraction. To help with any discomfort, your child may have an appropriate dose of Advil, Motrin or Tylenol before the numbness wears off. Use of aspirin is discouraged.

**Diet** – It is recommended to have a soft/liquid diet for the day of the extraction. Please do not allow your child to drink through a straw for the first day. Cold foods such as popsicles, milkshakes, etc, may feel the best for the first few hours.

**Activity** – Please limit your child's activity the day of an extraction. Do not allow your child to participate in any strenuous activities as it may cause the area to bleed again. It is recommended that your child stay inside in a cool environment, rest and do inside activities such as watching movies and playing video games.

**Oral Hygiene** – Brushing and flossing are encouraged as normal in all areas except the extraction site. It is also recommended to clean the extraction site and the gums gently with a soft toothbrush. Please keep rinsing to a minimum as it may lead to continued bleeding.

**Questions or Concerns** – Please feel free to call the office if your child has prolonged bleeding, pain after the first 48 hours, an extraction site that will not heal after 14 days or any other questions. (803) 547-8200