

What To Expect Following Surgical Tooth Extraction Procedures

Surgical tooth extraction in preparation for eventual dental implant replacement is a complex procedure with a primary goal of removing the tooth with minimal damage to the supporting bone. The extraction is followed by grafting and regenerative procedures intended rebuild the jawbone structure to a healthy form which will support a dental implant. The tooth is likely being removed due to a variety of conditions that have resulted in the demise of the tooth and damage to tooth supporting bone. Conditions such as traumatic fracture of the crown and/or root/s, non-restorable tooth decay, failed root canal procedures, chronic or acute infection or bone loss secondary to periodontal/gum disease typically result in damage to the tooth supporting bone of the jaw. This bone must be replaced if the goal of therapy is to replace the tooth with a crown supported by a dental implant. An extraction socket will heal without grafting but more than likely the bone of the healed socket will be deficient in either the quantity or quality necessary to support a dental implant.

"Implant Site Development" includes careful debridement or cleaning of the socket, filling of the site or socket with bone graft material/s and coverage of the grafted socket with barrier material intended to prevent gum tissue from entering the tooth socket. While bone heals slowly, gum tissue heals very rapidly. By excluding gum tissue from the healing bony socket, bone will be allowed the necessary time to heal the socket and any collateral bone damage.

Duration of Pain or Discomfort

Following this procedure, pain can vary in intensity and duration. The pain immediately following surgery is typically sharp and most intense. Narcotic medication will be prescribed for pain relief. Pain that persists beyond the first 5 days postoperative is typically a dull ache and can be either localized or pain that radiates towards the back of the jaw or towards the ear on the side of the extraction. The dull ache can persist for as long as 3 weeks. That pain is best managed with anti-inflammatory medications such as Ibuprofen.

Appearance of the Wound

The wound typically remains closed with gum tissue covering the graft and the protective barrier. On occasion, when sutures dissolve, the gum tissue flaps seem loose and the barrier material is exposed and visible. Small pieces of bone graft materials can be expelled from the wound. Neither of these occurrences are cause for alarm. A small amount of swelling should also be expected. If you experience moderate or severe swelling please contact the office to arrange an appointment for Dr. Brown to assess your condition as well as the healing wound.

If you have questions please contact me or my staff at the office (520)790-2151 or on the doctor's "after hours" cellular phone at (520)591-5724.