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Instructions Following Your Child's Oral Surgery

Especially for: _____

1. Following your child's surgery, your child may have been given a gauze pad to bite down on. This helps control bleeding. Keep this gauze in place for at least the next one half hour.
2. Keep your child from rinsing, spitting, and sucking through a straw, for the next several hours. Any of these might disturb the blood clot and retard healing.
3. Your child may be given prescriptions for pain and/or an antibiotic or an anti-swelling medication. Have these filled and follow the directions as indicated.
4. To control swelling, you may wish to place an ice pack on your child's face intermittently for the first four hours. If you do not have an ice pack, you can make one at home using a locking plastic bag wrapped in a towel or washcloth.
5. By the next day, your child can resume normal activities. Your child may now begin rinsing their mouth gently with warm salt water (1/4 teaspoon salt in glass of warm water).
6. Should your child experience any unusual bleeding or pain, or if your child complains of a bad taste, contact our office at once.
7. Within several days following the surgery, your child may be scheduled for a brief postoperative visit. This is a routine precaution.

While children recuperate quickly and can basically go about normal routines, they should be observed for the balance of the day and kept from sports activities. If a school excuse is needed, simply ask the receptionist. As always, remind your child that his or her lips are numb and not to bite them or eat or drink anything hot until the "sleepiness" wears off. Child must be closely watched.