



Infection / Incision and Drainage Instructions

An incision and drainage procedure is performed to help manage an aggressive infection. This procedure is often completed with the extraction of the tooth or teeth causing the infection. Other times it is performed to clean out trapped debris after an impacted tooth removal.

Drainage

A drain (rubber tube) is sometimes sutured in the gum area at the site of the infection. This tube allows the infection to "drain." Do not attempt to touch, move, remove, or replace the drain. If the drain comes out, please call the office for further assistance. Other times the wound is simply left open to drain. Beginning 24 hours after the procedure the drain or open wound should be irrigated with normal saline (salt in water) using the syringe provided. This is critically important in allowing the infection to continue to drain and to keep the area clean.

Drain Removal

A post-operative appointment will be scheduled for an evaluation and drain removal if necessary. If the infection is resolving, drain removal is very simple and involves removing sutures and then the drain.

Antibiotic Medications

You must take the medication precisely as prescribed. Missing doses or not taking the antibiotic at the correct time interval can cause your infection to become worse. This may result in the need for additional surgery and possibly hospitalization.

Swelling may worsen initially after your procedure. This is normal. Swelling usually reaches its maximum 3 days following surgery. Keep your head elevated with two to three pillows when reclining for the first 2 days. This will help reduce swelling. If you feel your condition is worsening, please call the doctor immediately.

Stiffness of the jaw muscles from swelling may cause difficulty in opening your mouth for a few days following surgery. This is a normal post-operative event, which will resolve in time. The application of heat and gentle stretching after 24 hours will help improve this symptom.

Infections that require an incision and drainage procedure are aggressive and can reoccur. These types of infections may lead to the removal of additional teeth, additional surgical procedures, and even hospitalization. Ignoring these infections can lead to serious breathing and swallowing problems.

Each case will differ, no two cases are alike. Do not accept well-intended advice from friends. If you have any questions or concerns, please discuss them with our office. We are here to support and help you throughout your recovery.

THE ABOVE INSTRUCTIONS ARE PROCEDURE SPECIFIC AND ACCOMPANY THE GENERAL POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS