

Heine, Heine, and Bowles Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, PLLC

2850 Lone Oak Road, Bayley Square, Suite #5

Paducah, KY 42003

Phone: 270-554-2026

Fax: 270-554-9164

Post-operative instructions after Oral Biopsy Procedure:

*****Please read ALL these instructions carefully*****

During an **incisional** biopsy, a small piece of tissue (soft or bony) is removed. During an **excisional** biopsy, the entire "lesion" is removed. After any type of biopsy, the tissue is then sent to a pathology laboratory for microscopic examination and diagnosis. Once a diagnosis is made, either no further treatment is needed or occasionally, more surgery may be recommended by your doctor.

To help your biopsy heal properly:

- Begin over the counter (Tylenol or Ibuprofen) or prescription pain relievers before the local anesthesia wears off.
- Take all antibiotics as prescribed.
- Minor bleeding is normal for 24-48 hours after a biopsy but should decrease with time.
- If you were given gauze to apply pressure to the site, put direct, constant pressure with moisten gauze for 1 hour then reapply hourly until bleeding has stopped.
- Avoid hot liquids, using drinking straws or sharp foods (chips, pizza crust, bread) for at least 24 hours.
- Be careful eating until the local anesthesia has worn off to avoid traumatizing the biopsy site or biting your lip or tongue.
- Avoid pulling on tongue or lips if these sites were biopsied or touching the biopsy site with your fingers as this may open the wound and cause an infection.
- Brush your teeth normally but avoid rinsing for 24 hours to allow the site to form a clot.
- After 24 hours, begin rinsing 3-4 times a day with warm salt water. Do not use any mouthwashes that have not been prescribed. Peroxide rinses and mouthwashes that contain alcohol are detrimental to healing, so use salt water only.
- Do NOT use tobacco products for 48-72 hours.
- Sutures are usually removed 2 weeks after surgery.
- Sometimes a laser is used during the biopsy procedure, which can cause discoloration of the tissue. This will disappear when the wound has healed.
- Good oral hygiene in most cases prevents infections but if the site becomes red, swollen or tender after 5 days of healing, please come in for an evaluation and to rule out infection.
- Follow-up appointments are made 7-14 days after the procedure to remove any sutures, discuss the results and discuss if further treatment is necessary.
- Please call our office with any questions or concerns 270-554-2026.