



Children's Hospital Boston

Department of Dentistry

Children's Hospital, Boston

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HARVARD SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE

Division of Pediatric Dentistry

Department of Oral and Developmental Biology

Instruction Following a Tooth Extraction

- Bite on gauze pad for 20 minutes. If bleeding persists, place another gauze pad over the area for another 20 minutes.
- Do NOT rinse mouth TODAY. Rinsing could cause bleeding. Tomorrow, if possible, rinse every 2 hours with a glassful of warm water containing one-half teaspoonful of salt. Rinses may be continued for several days.
- Encourage liquid consumption until a soft to normal diet is tolerated.
- Give your child Tylenol®, Advil® or other medication(s) as directed by your dentist.
- Do not use a straw to drink. Drink directly from a cup.
- If you have cause for concern, call the Dental Department at (617) 355-6571: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. During after hours and on weekends please call the hospital page operator at 617-355-6363 and ask to page the dentist on call.

What to Expect After a Tooth Extraction

- Slight swelling may be expected to accompany the removal of teeth. Apply icebag to face 20 minutes out of every hour for several hours - today only.
- Expect some pain or discomfort after the local anesthesia (“Novacaine”) wears off.
- Discolored saliva may be apparent for 12 to 24 hours.