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# **Instructions Following Biopsy**

Biopsies of the mouth, like in other parts of the body, require careful attention to postoperative care in order to promote healing.

#### DO NOT DISTURB THE WOUND

Avoid touching the wound, only on the day of surgery, as this might prolong the bleeding

### BLEEDING

Some oozing is normal for 24 hours. Using a damp sterile gauze, place continuous steady pressure on the biopsy site for 60 minutes to control any bleeding. Avoid lifting the gauze frequently to check for blood. If you run out of gauze, apply pressure with a moistened tea bag. Do not drink any liquids through a straw in the first 24 hours as this will displace the blood clot and may prolong oozing. Do not smoke

### PAIN

Before the anesthetic diminishes and the sensation starts to return, consider taking pain medication. Use as directed. Drink at least ½ a glass of water when taking the pill or capsule.

### DIET

Soft cool food and liquids will be easier to eat. Return to a normal diet as soon as possible unless otherwise directed.

## ORAL HYGIENE

Mouth and wound cleanliness is essential to good healing. Rinse your mouth gently with warm salt water (½ teaspoon of salt in a full glass of warm water) on the evening of the biopsy and continue to rinse after eating until healing is complete. Avoid vigorous swishing as this may induce bleeding. Brush your teeth as normal.