



Information about placing dental implants under local anaesthetic (and sedation)

Antibiotics (to prevent infection)

One hour prior to the surgery you will have to take the first capsules of a course of antibiotics. They will be prescribed at the pre-surgical consultation so that you can purchase the antibiotics in advance. It is most important that the complete course is taken. If you have ever previously had an allergic reaction to any antibiotics, please remind us.

Sedation (optional)

It is important for you to be relaxed during the surgery and we monitor your pulse rate and blood oxygen levels to ensure you are not becoming distressed. If you suspect you will be anxious it is a good idea to take oral sedation. If required, this is prescribed at the pre-surgical consultation and consists of tablets (Temazepam 10mg), which must be taken one hour before the surgery (one tablet will make you feel relaxed, two tablets sleepy). They can also be used to provide a good night's sleep both before and after surgery.

It is important to realise that the effects of the sedation can last 24 hours and you should NOT drive or operate any machinery during this time. You should arrange to have someone escort you home or take a taxi.

Analgesics (control of pain)

Local anaesthetic (which involves a series of injections) is administered at the beginning of surgery. This results in a numb feeling for about 3 to 4 hours. When this wears off you will require some pain killers (analgesics) to control any pain and these will be included on your prescription.

Eating following surgery

It is advisable to prepare soft or liquid foods after surgery, as it may not be possible to chew hard foods for some days. A soft diet information sheet is available if you need some ideas.

Stitches

Stitches will be used to close the wound, they are usually resorbable but can be removed one week later at the review appointment if they are causing discomfort. This is a short procedure, which causes only minor discomfort.

Wearing your dentures

Ideally, patients should leave their dentures out for 7 to 10 days to prevent them pressing on the underlying implants.

If a temporary crown or bridge has been placed, your denture will no longer be necessary. If healing abutments (temporary metal cylinders) have been used your denture will need to be adjusted and relined, either by myself or your restorative dentist.



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Care of surgery site

You will be given a comprehensive instruction sheet before your discharge on how to look after the surgical site and keep it clean.

Smoking has been shown to reduce the chance of successful osseointegration (healing) taking place. It is therefore advisable to stop or greatly reduce cigarette consumption both before and after the surgery.

Time off work

You can expect to experience some degree of swelling, bruising and discomfort for a few days following the surgery. In normal circumstances this will require no more than 3 to 4 days away from work. A medical certificate can be issued to cover this period. If you are required to leave out your denture after the surgery it would be wise to restrict your social program for up to two weeks.

You will be given a short review appointment about 7 to 10 days after the surgery to monitor healing.