

WHAT IS A TOOTH EXTRACTION?

We always prefer to explore all options of treatment in order to save a patient's tooth, however, there are some situations where it is simply beyond repair. In those cases, we will perform an extraction, which is basically the removal of a tooth from its socket.

HOW DOES A TOOTH EXTRACTION WORK?

During this procedure, we will numb the area in the patient's mouth where the tooth is being removed in order to avoid feeling pain. Then, the tooth will be loosened using a special tool called an elevator. Once it's ready to remove, it will be gently removed from the socket using forceps.

WHAT OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR SEDATION?

Our priority is to ensure that the patient feels safe and comfortable during their treatment, therefore we provide a variety of options for sedation and anesthesia to help the patient relax and feel at ease. We use nitrous oxide, or laughing gas, as it has shown to help young patients feel less nervous and more comfortable. Nitrous oxide wears off quickly after the procedure is done, so patients can get back to normal quickly. In cases where patients have a more severe case of anxiety, we offer general anesthesia. This is performed with our specialists at Children's Mercy Hospital. We are happy to discuss all of these options with you when planning your child's treatment.



EXTRACTIONS

WHAT KIND OF CARE IS NEEDED AFTER AN EXTRACTION?

Good oral hygiene is always important but it is critical after an extraction to ensure that the mouth can heal as quickly as possible. In the beginning, you should expect some bleeding. It is recommended that you change out the gauze covering the area every 20-30 minutes or so until the bleeding subsides. Biting pressure should be maintained on the gauze while it is in the mouth.

It is possible to experience some swelling in the mouth around the extraction area. To keep swelling down, you can apply ice to the area for about 20 minutes.

If there is any pain or discomfort, you can take over the counter medication such as Children's Tylenol or Children's Motrin for pain relief. This should only be needed for 12-24 hours. If pain persists beyond 48 hours, please call our office.

For the first day or two after the extraction, only soft, bland foods should be eaten - nothing sharp, crunchy, or too hot/cold - as the area around the extraction may be sensitive. Encourage drinking plenty of water and other liquids like soups or juices. Avoid carbonated beverages. NO spitting or drinking through straws as this can disrupt the blood clot that is forming in the area and can force bleeding to start again.

A clean mouth heals faster. Gentle brushing around the extraction site can be started immediately along with warm salt water rinses (1/4 teaspoon table salt to 8oz. glass of warm water) to aid with any discomfort.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please call our office and we will help! 816-741-5311