

## ENT SURGICAL CONSULTANTS

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### ORAL CAVITY WOUND CARE (12/05)

#### Instructions

- To control bleeding, a gauze sponge may be placed over the surgical site. If bleeding continues after the gauze is removed, insert a gauze (moistened in water) and leave it in place for 2 hours or until bleeding stops. Ice to the area may promote clotting in order to stop any bleeding.
- You may brush your teeth after the procedure, avoiding the surgical site.
- You may wear dentures as directed by your surgeon.
- Avoid any sucking action. Do not use a straw and do not smoke.
- If mouth discomfort is unrelieved by *Tylenol* or other pain medicine for 24-48 hours, notify your surgeon.
- Beginning the day after surgery, clean the surgical area in your mouth by swishing and expectorating hydrogen peroxide (diluted to half strength by mixing with water or salt water). Then rinse the area with warm salt water (1 teaspoon of salt dissolved in a quart of warm tap water) after each meal, snack and at bedtime. If performed regularly this will help to keep your mouth clean until completely healed.

#### If the following occurs, contact our office (815-725-1191)

- Bleeding not controlled by gauze sponges
- Increased swelling
- Persistent pain
- Separation of suture line
- Foul taste in mouth