Extractions of baby teeth may be done if the tooth is abscessed, over-retained (the permanent tooth is trying to come in but cannot), or to make room if an orthodontist recommends this.

Sometimes, these teeth may be extracted using only a strong gel applied to the gum tissue. Often, however, this is not the case and local anesthetic is required.

Stitches are not required and baby teeth that are “pulled” do not develop dry sockets. Once the tooth is out, a blood clot forms in the socket to begin healing. We make sure the bleeding has stopped by the time you leave the office.

POST EXTRACTION INSTRUCTIONS

1. No vigorous rinsing, spitting or sucking on straws for twenty-four hours. Your child may brush normally but we ask that they brush gently around the extraction site to keep the area clean and to keep any food or debris out of the area and socket.

2. Since it is likely that the area is numb, we ask that your child eats only soft foods for twenty-four hours, such as mashed potatoes, soft french fries, macaroni and cheese, puddings, pastas, etc.

   We encourage you to get them a milkshake or smoothie on the way home but to use a spoon, as a straw may pull the clot out. Have them drink lots of fluids that day, again without straws.

3. The local anesthetic will wear off in 2-3 hours. It is important that children do not bite or chew the inside of the cheek, bite their lips or tongue, scratch or pat the outside of their cheek, or pull their lips.

   Usually, children do not need Children’s Tylenol or Motrin after extractions. If in doubt, call us, but usually “Dr. Mom” knows best.

   If your child has been on antibiotics because of an infected / abscessed tooth, finish the course of antibiotics unless instructed otherwise.

   If you have any concerns, please call us.