

POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLINGS

If you had novocaine today:

- You will probably experience soreness at the site of the injection and possibly some mild swelling or minor ulceration. Warm salt-water rinses may be soothing. Orabase with benzocaine can be applied to any ulcers or blisters. It is available at your pharmacy.
- In rare cases, bruising or muscle tightness may be evident. This will usually clear up in 1-2 weeks without further treatment.
- DO NOT eat while you are still numb.

Do not eat on the side where silver fillings were placed for the first 24 hours.

If both sides have new silver fillings, eat soft foods like soup or spaghetti for the first 24 hours.

Sensitivity is very common after silver or tooth-colored fillings.

- You may have cold or hot sensitivity.
- The sensitivity could last up to a few weeks afterwards. Try to avoid foods and liquids that aggravate this condition.
- The teeth may ache or throb. Advil may be needed to relieve this discomfort.
- If your bite feels uncomfortable after the novocaine wears off, please call to check for a possible bite adjustment.

Silver fillings usually last quite a few years with proper care; large ones may require a crown (cap) at a future time.

Tooth-colored fillings are used in areas of cosmetic concern; however, they may need to be “touched up” periodically.

If a tooth-colored filling was placed on the edge of a front tooth, certain precautions must be observed:

- Do not bite on anything hard such as ice, hard candy or nuts.
- Do not bite on pens, pencils, fingernails, etc.
- Do not open bobby pins or bottle lids.
- Try not to get bumped on the front teeth.

Thank you for being our patient. If you have any further questions, please feel free to call our office.

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