

# *South Hill Periodontics*

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## **INSTRUCTIONS FOLLOWING IMPLANT SURGERY**

Dental implants are cylindrical in form, come in varying lengths and diameters and are made of titanium. A dental implant replaces the missing root of a tooth. Your dentist will make the crown on top of the implant once it has integrated with the bone, usually in 3-6 months.

### **Post-Operative Instructions:**

You will be given prescription medications; use them as directed. If you have an adverse reaction (skin rash, hives, etc.) to any of the medications, discontinue them and call Dr. Giardino. If you feel that you are having a serious reaction with difficulty breathing, chest pain or other serious symptoms, call 911.

1. After having IV sedation it is very important that you stay at home and rest. It takes several hours for the effects of the medication to wear off. Do not drive a car, operate machinery, use alcohol or conduct business for the rest of the day. It's best to rest for a day or two after implant surgery, in a reclined position with your head elevated while you are awake.
2. Use an icepack over the surgical area as directed by the nursing staff. A bag of frozen peas or corn works well.
3. Liquids and soft foods are recommended for the first 2-3 days. We will provide you with a separate page of food selections. Drink plenty of water. Avoid alcohol and smoking.
4. Do not brush or floss directly on the surgical site. You need to brush and floss your other teeth as you normally would. Gently swish for 30 seconds with the prescribed mouth rinse as directed.
5. If any bleeding begins and does not stop with gentle pressure for 10-20 minutes, try gently rinsing with icy cold water. You can also apply a wet tea bag (not herbal) with some gentle pressure. This should stop any bleeding problem. If this is unsuccessful, call the office for assistance.
6. If any sutures are used in conjunction with your surgery they are very delicate and may come loose after a few days. This does not usually present a problem. Any remaining sutures will be gently removed in our office 10-14 days after the procedure.