So you've just had a dental implant placed... **Post-operative instructions**

What to expect

- Soreness and swelling after having a dental implant placed is to be expected for about a week
- You may have some bruising, and sometimes this can appear quite drastic; don't be alarmed about this
- Some mild bleeding is quite normal for 48 hours after the procedure
- The stitches can be a little irritating (you will be informed if these are dissolvable or not)

When to seek assistance

- Severe pain is never normal and you should contact the practice if standard pain relief is not helping
- Severe swelling which spreads to your eye or stops you from speaking or swallowing properly
- Numbness which has not worn off by the morning after your procedure
- Foul taste or pus coming from the site of surgery

How do I care for the surgical site?

- Try to avoid removable appliance wear for 7 days as this can impact on healing
- Take over-the-counter pain relief for 5-7 days
- Use a salty or chlorhexidine mouth rinse from the day after your procedure. Do this at least after every meal for up to a week after the procedure.
- Have a **soft diet** for up to a week
- If you have a significant bleed, bite down on some gauze for up to 10 minutes
- Avoid an electric brush around the stitches for the 1st week
- **Do not smoke** for at least 48 hours

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