

LANAP Post-Op Packet

Patient instructions following LANAP[®] Treatment

1. Do not be alarmed with any color changes or appearance of gum tissue following laser therapy. Gum tissue can turn gray, yellow, red, blue, purple, and “stringy” and reflects a normal response to laser treatments.
2. Do not apply excessive tongue or cheek pressure to the treated area.
3. Do not be alarmed if one of the following occurs:
 - Light bleeding
 - Slight swelling
 - Some soreness, tenderness, or tooth sensitivity
 - Medicinal taste (from Peridex)
4. Swelling may possibly occur. To keep this at a minimum, gently place an ice pack on the outside of the face for 20 minutes each hour until you retire for sleep that night. Do not continue using the ice bag beyond the day of the periodontal surgery.
5. Some oozing of blood may occur and will appear to be greatly exaggerated when it dissolves in saliva. Determine the side of oozing and place pressure on this area. If you cannot locate the origin of the bleeding, rinse your mouth gently with iced water and apply a wet tea bag to the general area.
6. Please call the office so that we may render further treatment if any of the following occurs:
 - Prolonged or severe pain
 - Prolonged or excessive bleeding
 - Considerably elevated or persistent temperature (Fever)
 - Sores on the roof of your mouth (Blisters)
7. If medication has been prescribed, please take exactly as directed. The entire bottle or prescription should be taken for the stated number of days or weeks. If you are not allergic to Motrin – generic ibuprofen- (e.g., Advil, Nuprin), we will most likely prescribe it primarily to minimize tissue swelling and local inflammation that is a natural side effect of minor surgery. Ibuprofen is also good to reduce postoperative pain and sensitivity. Ibuprofen is non-narcotic and does not affect your ability to drive. Never place aspirin directly on the tissue of a painful area.
8. Reduce physical activity for several hours following the surgery to maximize healing.

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9. Try to keep your mouth as clean as possible to help the healing process. Only brush and floss the untreated area of your mouth. **Do not brush or floss the treated area for 7-10 days or as directed by your doctor.**
10. You may spit gently, but do not rinse your mouth the day of treatment. Begin rinsing your mouth gently 3 times a day with Peridex the day following treatment. In between Peridex rinses, rinse your mouth gently 3 times a day with warm salt water (1/2 teaspoon of salt dissolved in an 8 oz. glass of warm water). For the next several days rinse with both Peridex and salt water as previously mentioned but with vigor.
11. You will be on a liquid diet for 3 days, then a diet of “mushy”/soft foods for 4 days, and then a diet of smart food choices for the remainder of the month. It is very important to maintain a good food and fluid intake. Try to eat soft but nutritious food such as eggs, yogurt, cottage cheese, ice cream, etc., until you can comfortably return to a normal diet. Please refer to the Post LANAP[®] Treatment Diet Instructions (on the next page).
12. Avoid spicy or excessively hot foods during the initial 3-day liquid diet period.
13. When eating, do not chew on the side of your mouth which has been treated.
14. Do not be alarmed that beginning with just 2 weeks after therapy and extending as long as 1 year or more, the teeth may become sore and tender as the bone and ligaments around the teeth regenerate and become firmer. This is a sign of healing, but also indicates the presence of a bite imbalance that may need to be adjusted.
15. “Spaces” between your teeth can result from reduction of inflammation, swelling, and the removal of diseased tissue after the LANAP[®] treatment. These spaces usually fill in over time, and again, bite adjustment is critical to making sure the teeth and the “papilla” are not traumatized and can regrow.
16. **If you have been taken off blood thinners (Coumadin, Warfarin, etc.), or if your current medications have been altered at all due to your dental surgery, you must contact your physician ASAP to determine if and when you should resume your medicines. Delaying this telephone call could have potential life-threatening or other serious consequences. I agree I must continue to take all current medications as prescribed by my doctor(s) and must continue to take all supplements and vitamins.**

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The first three days following Laser Therapy, follow **only** a liquid-like diet to allow healing. Anything that could be put into a blender to drink is ideal. The purpose of this is to protect the clot that is acting as a “band-aid” between the gums and the teeth. Do **not** drink through a straw, as this creates a vacuum in your mouth that can disturb the “band-aid”. Take daily vitamins.

Next four days after treatment, foods with a “mushy” consistency such as those listed below are recommended. *See below.

Starting seven to ten days after treatment, soft foods may be allowable. The time to start on soft foods is dependent upon the loss of the white material that appeared around your teeth following LANAP® treatment. You were introduced to this material by your doctor or doctor’s assistant during your follow-up visit immediately following your initial treatment session. It was explained to you that you must leave this material alone until it naturally heals and disappears. Once the white material has disappeared, then soft foods can be introduced. Soft foods have the consistency of pasta, fish, chicken, or steamed vegetables. You may then gradually add back your regular diet choices.

Please remember that even after ten days, healing is not complete. The first month following treatment you should continue to make smart food choices. Softer foods are better.

Soft Diet Suggestions

- DAILY VITAMINS!
- Anything put through a food blender
- Cream of Wheat, Oatmeal, Malt-O-Meal
- Avocado, Applesauce
- Mashed Potatoes or Baked Potatoes
 - OK with butter/sour cream
- Mashed Banana or any mashed/blended fruit except berries with seeds
- Broth or Creamed Soup
- Mashed Steamed Vegetables
- Mashed Yams/Baked Sweet Potato/Butternut Squash
- Cottage Cheese, Cream or Soft Cheese
- Creamy Peanut Butter (without solid pieces)
- Eggs any style, with or without melted cheese
 - Omelets can have cheese and avocado
- Jell-O, Pudding, Ice Cream, Yogurt
- Milk Shakes/Smoothie/Protein Drinks
 - DO NOT blend with berries containing seeds

DO NOT

Chew gum, candy, cookies, chips, nuts, anything hard or crunchy, anything that has seeds or hard pieces, meat that shreds and can lodge under the gum and between teeth, raw vegetables/salad.

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Current Medication Warning

If you have been taken off blood thinners (Coumadin, Warfarin, etc.), or if your current medications have been altered at all due to your dental surgery, you must contact your physician ASAP to determine if and when you should resume your medicines. Delaying this telephone call could have potential life-threatening or other serious consequences. I agree I must continue to take all current medications as prescribed by my doctor(s) and must continue to take all supplements and vitamins.

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Smokers/Tobacco Users Warning

Tobacco has a very large effect on your gums and the disease you have in them. Tobacco is associated with an increased disease rate in terms of loss of the bone and gums that are holding your teeth in, as well as an increase in the space between the gums and teeth. Tobacco is a major factor for chronic gum disease.

Any type of smoking and/or chewing tobacco will have an adverse effect on the progress of your healing and may cause the gum disease to reoccur after treatment. If you smoke or chew tobacco, we highly recommend not to do so while you are healing or anytime after that.