

# Local anaesthesia – oral and maxillofacial surgery

## Oral and Maxillofacial Department Patient Information Leaflet

### What happens on the day of my treatment?

Have meals as normal – **do not starve**.

If possible, arrange for an adult to accompany you home. This is advisable but not absolutely necessary.

### What should I expect during the treatment?

You will be fully awake during this treatment but will be given an injection of local anaesthetic to anaesthetise (sometimes referred to as ‘freezing’ or ‘numbing’) the area to be operated on. You should not feel any pain during the procedure but certain sensations of vibration and pressure can be felt. Most people are not bothered by this.

# What should I expect after the treatment?

## Pain

This may last several days after your operation but is usually well controlled by simple painkillers. You may be given painkillers by us but if you are not, paracetamol or aspirin are suitable.

Children under 12 years should not take aspirin.

## Swelling

This may last several days and may not appear for one or two days after the procedure. The degree of swelling is unpredictable but it is a normal response to surgery and unless there is severe pain or severely restricted swallowing or breathing, it is not a cause for concern.

## Limitation of mouth opening

Again, this is expected following surgery of the mouth and jaws. It may last several days.

## Altered sensation

It is important that you read and understand this section.

Operations in the mouth and jaws sometimes involve a risk of damage to nerves that supply sensation to the lower lip and tongue. After certain operations, there will be some loss of sensation in the lower lip and tongue because of the local anaesthetic injection. There is also the possibility that the loss of sensation or the altered sensation may last for a few weeks or months after the procedure. In a few cases this loss may be permanent.

**If the procedure you are to have is associated with this risk, you will have been told at your outpatient appointment.**

## Bleeding

Those having operations inside the mouth may have a little bleeding. In most cases this is easily controlled by removing any clots of blood from around the operation site and then applying pressure, using a clean handkerchief, on the operation site for up to 30 minutes. You should sit upright when you are doing this.

In addition, carefully follow the instructions in the next section 'What should I do after treatment?'

## **What should I do after treatment?**

To reduce the chances of bleeding after the operation, please note the following advice.

Rest, avoid alcohol and excessive exertion (such as energetic sports) for 24 hours after your surgery. If you have been given antibiotics (not everyone is), complete the course unless you suffer any side effects. If for any reason you cannot complete the course of antibiotics, let us know.

If you have had an operation inside your mouth, do not rinse your mouth for 24 hours after the operation. After that time, rinse your mouth with hot salt water at least twice a day (dissolve a teaspoon of salt in a tumbler of warm water). On the night that you have had the operation, do not clean your teeth.

## **Will I have stitches?**

You may have sutures (stitches). Dissolving stitches are usually used in the mouth and these will disappear on their own. You will be given an appointment if any stitches need to be removed.

## **What about medication?**

If you pay for prescriptions, please bring some money with you to pay for medications, for example antibiotics, that are sometimes required.

## **What if I have any problems after leaving hospital?**

You can ring 01384 456111 and ask for the on-call house officer in the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Department who will give advice and if necessary will see you at the hospital. This service is always available 24 hours a day, if you are unable to wait until the morning.

## **Important note**

This information is only a general guide to the treatment you will be having and reinforces some of the information given to you when you are seen at the outpatient clinic. Some of the information may not apply to the treatment you are having. Any information specific to your case will be discussed with you.

**If you are unclear about any aspect of your proposed treatment, please ask to speak to a member of staff.**

If you have any questions, or if there is anything you do not understand about this leaflet, please contact:

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Department  
Russells Hall Hospital

Dudley

West Midlands

DY1 2HQ

Telephone: 01384 244166 (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday)

**This leaflet can be downloaded or printed from:**

<http://dgft.nhs.uk/services-and-wards/head-and-neck/>

If you have any feedback on this patient information leaflet, please email [dgft.patient.information@nhs.net](mailto:dgft.patient.information@nhs.net)

**This leaflet can be made available in large print, audio version and in other languages, please call 0800 073 0510.**

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Ulotka dostępna jest również w dużym druku, wersji audio lub w innym języku. W tym celu zadzwoń pod numer 0800 073 0510.

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Aceasta brosură poate fi pusă la dispoziție tipărită cu caractere mari, versiune audio sau în alte limbi, pentru acest lucru va rugăm sunați la 0800 073 0510.

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