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CARE OF THE MOUTH FOLLOWING SOFT TISSUE GRAFT SURGERY (ALLODERM DONOR)

It is very important not to disturb the graft site during the first few weeks of healing. Keep ice over the grafted site, 20 minutes on and 20 minutes off, during the first day of surgery. This will reduce swelling. It is normal to have swelling, as well as some bruising, over the area where the graft sites were done. The day after surgery is the time to begin using the Peridex rinse that was prescribed. Do not use a toothbrush at or around the grafted site during the first four weeks after surgery. Begin brushing the rest of the mouth, avoiding the site of surgery, on the day after surgery. Do not disturb nor try to brush around the stitches where the graft was placed. Do not attempt to look at your graft by pulling your lips up or down. The more the lips and tissue are manipulated, the higher chance the stitches could pull loose resulting in failure of the graft.

Smoking affects the circulation of the graft and may cause the graft to slough or die resulting in recession. It is very important that you cut back or stop any smoking during the healing phase of the surgery. Ideally, you should not smoke for three weeks following any soft tissue graft surgery. When smoking resumes, take light drags on the cigarette.

Any additional questions, please call our office at 972-394-1234 for a detailed explanation.