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DRY SOCKET

Occasionally, after extractions, patients develop a common condition known as localized osteitis, better known as “dry socket”.

It is an inflammation of the bone at the extraction site. There are many theories as to its cause, however, the most convincing research indicates it is **the loss of protective blood clot** from the extraction site. This can be caused by many things, including, smoking, sipping from a straw, taking birth control medication, excessive bleeding, pre-operative inflammation or infection in the area, difficult surgery or systemic illness.

Despite attempts to prevent a dry socket, none have been 100% successful. Symptoms of foul odor and severe pain usually set in on the second or third day after extraction of the tooth and lasts from ten to fourteen days.

The treatment consists of pain medication and placing a sedative, medicated packing into the extraction site. The packing serves as a protective dressing and relieves the pain.

We will see you daily to change the dressing until the area becomes comfortable. During treatment, eat and brush your teeth normally, however, refrain from excessive rinsing as this may wash the medication out of the dressing.

Even if the packing has been dislodged or has presumably fallen out, it is your responsibility to be examined since the packing does not dissolve on its own and must be removed. If not removed, remnants of the packing may remain, which over time could result in a severe infection.