

Medication Instructions

It is important that medications are taken as prescribed. Since you may be taking a combination of drugs, keeping a written schedule will help you. Your individually prescribed drugs are checked. Ignore the others, as they do not apply. It is safe to mix drugs with the exception of certain medications.

1. ANTIBIOTICS

Antibiotics are started the day of surgery and are used to prevent postoperative infection and help eliminate swelling. If you develop a true allergy (rash, itch, difficulty swallowing), stop taking antibiotic immediately and contact the doctor. Benadryl helps immediately to counteract an allergy.

Take all of these on schedule until your prescription is gone.

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| _____ | Cephalexin (Keflex) – one tablet, 4 times per day | _____ | Amoxicillin – one tablet, 3 times per day |
| _____ | Metronidazole – one tablet, 3 times per day | _____ | Clindamycin – one tablet, 3 times per day |

2. PAIN MEDICATION

(Analgesics): These are taken as needed to control discomfort, decrease swelling, and improve healing. Ibuprofen, Motrin and Advil are all the same drug (just different names).

- _____ Ibuprofen 600 mg – one tablet, every 6 hours for pain and swelling for the first 5 days
- _____ Norco – one tablet, every 6 hours as needed
- _____ Acetaminophen (over-the-counter extra-strength Tylenol) – one tablet, every 6 hours

NOTE: If your stomach bothers you, stop the antibiotics and the analgesics, and just take (2) Extra-Strength Tylenol every 6 hours.

3. DECADRON or DEXAMETHASON (Not always given or necessary for patients)

This drug is intended to reduce swelling and postoperative pain. It is effective if taken as directed and on time.

- Day 1: 4 tablets at 3 P.M.
4 tablets at bedtime
- Day 2: 3 tablets, 2 times per day (every 8 hours)
- Day 3: 3 tablets, 2 times per day (every 8 hours)

4. MEDICATED RINSE

- _____ Listerine – rinse for 30 seconds, 2-4 times a day (can be diluted with warm water if too strong). No swishing; allow it to bathe area of surgery.

NOTE: The pain medication, antibiotics (if prescribed), and Decadron (if prescribed) may be taken in combination with each other. Call the office if you have any questions.